

Kidnapped AUB professor freed

BEIRUT (AP) — Frank Regier, a professor at the American University of Beirut who was kidnapped more than two months ago, was rescued from his captors Sunday. "Let me say it was a terrifying experience," he told a news conference only an hour after his release. "I am very happy to be here." Prof. Regier and another kidnap victim — identified as Christian Joubert, 36, a French engineer — talked to reporters at the home of Nabih Berri, the leader of the Shi'ite Muslim militia "Amal." Mr. Berri said Prof. Regier and Mr. Joubert were rescued by Amal fighters from a house after Amal had received a tip about their whereabouts. He declined to give other details. Prof. Regier, 50, had last been seen Feb. 10 when two unidentified men forced him into a black Mercedes near his house on Jean d'Arc in west Beirut.

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Fateh, PFLP and DFLP to hold talks

TUNIS (R) — The three main elements of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will meet in Algiers next week to work towards the restoration of unity, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said Sunday. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Central Committee of the Fateh commando group met in Tunis Saturday to review recent talks in Aden between Fateh and the two other groups, the Tunisian news agency quoted Wafa as saying. The other groups are George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Wafa said a meeting between officials from Fateh, the PFLP and the DFLP was scheduled for Algiers on Wednesday and will also be attended by representatives from South Yemen, Algeria and the Lebanese National Movement.

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King receives Egyptian message

AQABA (Petra) — An Egyptian presidential envoy Sunday conveyed a verbal message to His Majesty King Hussein from President Hosni Mubarak dealing with current Middle East affairs. The envoy, Mansour Hassan, former Egyptian minister of information, reviewed with King Hussein recent developments in the Middle East region and was briefed by the King on Jordan's views concerning these developments and joint Arab action in the coming months. The audience here was attended by Ihab Wabbeh, head of the Egyptian interests office in Amman.

Tunisian delegation arrives with message

AMMAN (Petra) — A Tunisian envoy arrived here Sunday with a message to His Majesty King Hussein from President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia. The envoy, Ahmad Ibn Arafat, who is accompanied by an official delegation, will take part in talks with Jordanian officials to discuss ways to promote economic and trade co-operation between Tunisia, and Jordan.

Salvador moves embassy to Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — El Salvador moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem over the weekend, becoming the second country to return to the occupied Arab city which Israel has declared as its "eternal and indivisible" capital. The Netherlands, El Salvador and 10 other South American countries moved from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv after the Knesset (parliament) declared in 1980 that the entire city, including the annexed eastern sector, was Israel's "eternal capital." Costa Rica returned its embassy to Jerusalem last year.

Most French want Chad withdrawal

PARIS (AP) — Most French people want France to withdraw its military forces from Chad, according to a poll published Sunday. The poll, conducted by the IFOP organisation for the weekly Journal de Dimanche, reported that 58 per cent of those questioned said French troops should "leave Chad today," compared to 21 per cent who favoured a continued military presence in that African country and 21 per cent who expressed no opinion. The poll confirmed a recent popular trend here against France's military involvement in Chad.

Sri Lankan envoy ends Delhi talks

NEW DELHI (AP) — Sri Lanka's security minister left India Sunday after two days of talks on ending the island's ethnic strife and said his government is committed to a political solution. Lalith Aththanasiri said in a news release that the talks were "cordial and frank." Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he said, emphasised her commitment to respect Sri Lanka's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "This is greatly appreciated by us," he said.

Politics snag Beirut militia disengagement

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government Sunday postponed plans to disengage rival forces in and around Beirut as persistent political disputes obstructed progress towards an internal settlement.

A force of 2,000 Lebanesegendarmes and army conscripts was to have moved onto the "green line" dividing the capital but security sources said the buffer operation had been put off indefinitely. They said the main problem was that only 1,250 men had been assembled so far and not enough retired army and police officers had volunteered to join the 110-strong observer corps which will monitor a ceasefire along the new lines. The buffer force would separate the Lebanese army and the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia on the east of the line from the mostly Muslim opposition forces on the west.

It should also prevent the kind of military escalation which Saturday night developed into random shelling of residential areas. About 20 civilians were killed in the shelling. Intermittent rain Sunday dampened the combatants' enthusiasm for fighting though private radio stations reported sporadic mortar and machinegun fire between the mainly Shi'ite southern suburbs and Christian areas to the east.

Falangist radio said two people were killed by sniper fire on the mountain front, where the army faces the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia. Political sources said the disengagement could have gone ahead with the reduced number of gendarmes but the parties did not have the political will to put it into effect.

Meanwhile, President Amin Gemayel has been trying to get a new package of political reforms and a government of national unity to replace the cabinet which

resigned in February. He has already consulted the main politicians, directly or indirectly, but the results have not been conclusive.

The political sources said Mr. Gemayel wanted to form the government first, while the opposition wanted clear answers to its demands before it agrees to abandon military methods.

Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite militia Amal and one of Mr. Gemayel's most powerful opponents, Saturday demanded the president give priority to the Israeli-occupied south, where the local population is overwhelmingly Shi'ite. PSP leader Walid Junblat, a Berri ally, said he would reject any settlement leaving Christian privileges in the Lebanese system.

The two sides are also divided over the future of the Lebanese army, with the opposition pressing Mr. Gemayel to repeal a decree giving wide powers to the Christian army commander.

Mr. Gemayel took a break from his consultations to celebrate Palm Sunday. Palace sources said he would meet a number of Sunni Muslim former prime ministers Monday.

Mr. Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad have been expected to meet in Damascus for over a week now but the summit has been indefinitely postponed.

The Syrian media have been saying it is up to the Lebanese themselves to come to terms, suggesting Mr. Assad does not want the Lebanese to expect too much from their powerful neighbour.

PSP leaders meet Khaddam; Syria re-affirms support for Lebanese peace efforts, page 2



Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Sunday speaks to a visiting delegation of the U.S. Congress (Petra photo)

Embassy move will have 'serious consequences,' Jordan warns U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday warned the United States of the "serious consequences" of a plan to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and urged a visiting Congress delegation to abort current efforts in Washington to effect such a transfer.

The planned move of the embassy "is a dangerous plan advocated by the Zionist lobby in the U.S. which, if carried out, will have serious consequences," Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri told the delegation at a meeting here.

Mr. Masri outlined to the delegation members current developments in the Middle East and Jordan's views on efforts and basis for a just and durable peace in the

region, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

It added that the foreign minister also spoke about Israel's intransigence towards all peace initiatives and the Jewish state's defiance of all international resolutions and efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Masri also referred to Israel's drive to build Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories and its measures aimed at evicting Palestinians living under occupation from their homeland, the agency said.

The delegation members earlier met with Information Ministry Under-Secretary Peter Salah who called for American pressure on Israel to end its settlements drive.

The U.S. has lost its credibility in the Middle East and the Jordanian people are dissatisfied with the apparent lack of concern in Washington over efforts for peace in the region and the continued American support and financial and military aid to Israel, Mr. Salah told the delegation.

The continued tension in the Middle East is mainly due to Israel's intransigence and refusal to respond to peace initiatives, he added.

The visitors later conferred with University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali and were briefed on the development of the university and its programmes.

Iran-Iraq war detrimental to Arab interests, Algerian minister says

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Algeria's Minister of Social Protection and member of the executive committee of the National Liberation Front party, Mrs. Zibor Ounissi, said Sunday that the Iran-Iraq war is neither in the interests of either nation nor in the interests of the Arab Nation but is absolutely and definitely to the benefit of the Arab's enemy.

Mrs. Ounissi, who arrived in Amman Friday on an official visit to deliver a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, said that since the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1980, Algeria has been exerting all possible efforts to bring the conflict to an end. "Algeria did not act as a mediator between the conflicting parties but it always launched intensive efforts in order to stop this bloodshed," she told the Jordan Times.

"Algeria has paid a high price for efforts exerted to end the Gulf war but its bid for peace is an issue of principle which will continue despite the losses suffered," the minister said. "However, this does not mean that we would work on our own." We would work in co-operation with all the Arab

countries to find a peaceful solution," she added.

Regarding Algeria's stance towards Egypt, Mrs. Ounissi stressed that Egypt "is part of the Arab World and the Arab Nation, because the Arab World cannot be complete without Egypt and vice versa."

However, she added, "one cannot bypass Egypt's stands and attitudes towards the Camp David agreement (with Israel)," and hence "it is not easy to resume the Arab World's political relations with Egypt."

In reply to a question, Mrs. Ounissi said that even if Egypt abandoned the Camp David treaty, "nothing will change, for its (the treaty's) objectives were achieved, and the situation in the Arab World has deteriorated and requires new outlooks."

Commenting on Algeria's support for the Polisario Front which is fighting with Morocco for the independence of Western Sahara, Mrs. Ounissi said that the message delivered to King Hussein from President Benjedid covered "a vital picture" on the situation in North West Africa.

Algeria's support for the Polisario Front is based on its respect for the principle of self-

determination for all people, the minister said.

"Algeria does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country whether in Africa or otherwise," she said. "However, we believe that the people of Western Sahara have the right to decide their own future and to aspire for self-determination," she added.

The Algerian minister described Jordanian-Algerian relations as very good and said that the Algerian people bears deep respect and admiration for the Jordanian people.

King Hussein and President Benjedid handle different issues with wisdom and far-sightedness and this constitutes a guaranteed basis for success, she said.

She said that the recent visits to Algeria of Jordan's ministers of industry, trade and tourism, and foreign affairs "manifest the strength of Jordanian-Algerian relations and mutual understanding in order to lay down new basis for continuous co-operation in the interests of the two countries and the Arab Nation."

Mrs. Ounissi said her visit to Jordan also aims at reviewing the latest developments of the Palestinian issue.

Israel issues veiled threat to Damascus

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's daily Davar newspaper Sunday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir referred to a recent Soviet warning to Israel not to attack Syria and said "they did not mention the Bekaa."

Israeli officials appeared uncertain who was responsible for planning the bus hijack. Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday he believed Yasser Arafat's, Fateh organisation, the biggest commando movement in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was behind the hijacking.

Four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip commandeered a bus carrying 35 passengers Thursday night near the Mediterranean port city of Ashdod and demanded the release of 500 imprisoned Palestinians in exchange for their hostages.

Israeli troops killed the hijackers in a raid 10 hours after the bus was seized. In addition to the one passenger killed, seven others were wounded.

In less than three hours after Israeli soldiers stormed the bus, the Israeli army demolished the homes of the commandos who took part in the operation.

Arens says Israel favours Bekaa disengagement, page 2



One of the four Palestinian homes destroyed by the Israeli army following Friday's hijacking of a bus by commandos (AP wirephoto)

Freed Palestinians accuse Israelis of murder, torture

By Leila Deeb
Reuters

AMMAN — A group of Palestinians released from an Israeli prison camp in southern Lebanon last November Sunday accused the Israelis of murdering and torturing prisoners during their detention.

The group of 57 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters, among 104 Jordanian passport holders flown to Algiers after their release, arrived in Amman Sunday.

They were among 4,600 Palestinians and Lebanese freed in exchange for six Israelis on Nov. 24.

"They (the Israelis) treated us like animals... they only speak the language of violence," one fighter, Mohammed Nazzari, told Reuters. Another, Rizq Abdul Rahman, said 12 prisoners had been shot or

died of thirst after being denied water while kept on a beach in the sun by Israeli guards.

"Three were shot this way and nine others died of thirst," he said.

Others said they were kept at a school in Sidon for up to 10 days without food before being taken to prison camps in Israel.

Mr. Abdul Rahman, who was arrested in Tyre in June 1982, said he was kept in solitary confinement for 117 days with his hands and feet bound and a sack over his head.

"They wanted information from me on operation inside the occupied territories," he said.

Spokesmen for the group said at least 15 prisoners died in the exchange were taken back to Israel shortly before it took place. They called for international efforts to find out what had happened to them.

Jackson bags S. Carolina as Hart takes Arizona

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination scored its first clear-cut victory in his home state of South Carolina on Saturday, while Colorado Senator was declared winner in Arizona.

In South Carolina, Mr. Jackson received 17 national convention delegates to 14 uncommitted, seven for Mr. Hart and six for former Vice President Walter Mondale. The total included 41 delegates allocated by the caucus process started last month and three automatic delegates who already had stated a preference.

The delegates to the Democratic national convention in San Francisco in July will nominate the party's choice to face President Ronald Reagan in the elections in November.

In the Arizona caucuses, Mr. Hart led Mr. Mondale 46 per cent to 40 per cent, with about 32,500 votes, or 90 per cent counted. Mr. Jackson captured 13.3 per cent.

Unofficial totals gave Mr. Hart about 15,000 votes to 13,000 for Mr. Mondale and 4,500 for Mr. Jackson.

The voting was for 500 delegates to the May 26 state convention, which in turn will choose the 33 pledged delegates to the national convention. Under party rules the percentages in Saturday's voting determine the makeup of the delegation that goes to the national convention.

Democratic Party official later declared Mr. Hart winner of the Arizona caucuses and awarded him 17 delegates. Mr. Mondale received 15 delegates and Mr. Jackson secured one.

Mr. Mondale now has 1,068 of the 1,967 delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination while Mr. Hart's total is 595.

Mr. Jackson, a South Carolina native, won 34.4 per cent of the vote and 17 of the state's optional delegates as previously unpledged delegates defected in droves and increased the black leader's score to 171.

Austrian minister's Doha, Riyadh talks focus on Palestinian problem, Gulf war

RIYADH (AP) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lang and his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal, on Sunday discussed the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and explored means of upgrading economic and cultural co-operation between Austria and Saudi Arabia.

Prince Saud told the Saudi Press Agency that during the session "views were identical" on the topics of discussion, noting that Austria has a "traditional role in supporting Palestinian rights."

He did not elaborate on that point. The two sides, he said, also reviewed recent developments in bilateral ties between Austria and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Lang, who arrived from Qatar earlier in the day on the second leg of his Gulf tour, was to proceed from Saudi Arabia to Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Lang said that no European agency quoted Mr. Lang as saying in an interview that the Palestinian problem "is the core of the Middle East conflict, which directly affects Austria and other European countries."

He urged the European powers to "contribute" to efforts aimed at solving the Middle East problem. "A solution to the Middle East problem should be based on a realistic policy of respect for the legitimate rights of all peoples, including the Palestinians," Mr. Lang told the agency.

Mr. Lang, the agency said, strongly criticised Israel's practice of setting up settlements in occupied Arab territory. This, he said, "is capable of aggravating an already complicated situation in the Middle East."

He cautioned that governments moving their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would be "placing new obstacles" on the road to a peaceful settlement between the Arabs and Israel.

Mr. Lang said that no European

power was fit for mediation between warring Iran and Iraq, stressing that "any mediator has to be acceptable to both sides."

He expressed hopes the 43-month-old conflict would be brought to an end.

But he added that the eventualities of an early peace between the two countries was "remote, in view of the circumstances surrounding the conflict and also on account of the arms supplies to the two sides."

Mr. Lang's Gulf trip follows Chancellor Fred Sinowatz' recent visit to the Gulf region.

Austria maintains good ties with the Arabs and Israel. Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, the first Western leader to receive Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, has repeatedly urged "mutual recognition" between the PLO and Israel as a means of attaining lasting peace in the troubled Middle East.

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Nicaraguan rebels claim strategic port surrounded

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (R) — U.S.-backed right-wing Nicaraguan rebels claim they have surrounded the key Nicaraguan port of San Juan del Norte after heavy fighting.

Orion Pastora, spokesman for the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), said Saturday night the insurgents had set up artillery positions around the town and were prepared to repel any attack by the army of the leftist Sandinist government.

Residents, journalists and officials in the Costa Rican town of Barra de Colorado, some 20 kilometres south of San Juan del Norte, said the rebels had actually seized the town.

Four wounded Sandinist soldiers, taken Saturday night in an

ARDE helicopter to a rebel hospital in Ciudad Quesada, about 120 kilometres northwest of San Jose, told reporters the town was under rebel control.

Mr. Pastora said ARDE had caused more than 100 government casualties in three days of fierce fighting. Three ARDE rebels had been killed and at least 15 were wounded, he said.

In Managua, Defence Ministry sources said fighting continued Sunday about two kilometres from San Juan del Norte but they refused to confirm that ARDE rebels had seized the port, an unpopulated area which holds only an isolated army garrison.

Controversy rages in U.S. over Nicaragua policy, page 4

Murphy discusses Gulf war with Saudi officials

BAHRAIN (Agencies)—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, touring the Middle East to discuss the Iran-Iraq war, held consultations in Saudi Arabia Sunday with senior Saudi officials, U.S. diplomats in the Gulf said.

They said Murphy flew to the Kingdom Saturday night from the Gulf state of Qatar, where he held similar talks Saturday.

He was sent to the Middle East last week amid concern in the U.S. and the Gulf over the possible effects of an expected new Iranian offensive in the three-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war.

Saudi Arabia and the smaller conservative Arab states across the Gulf from Iran have supported Iraq in the war but U.S. officials recently expressed concern that any sudden battlefield setback could cause Iraq's resistance to collapse.

The Gulf states fear an Iranian victory in the war could threaten their own stability.

Some Gulf leaders have also warned that a major escalation of the Gulf war, such as the closure of the waterway to shipping, could lead to foreign intervention. The U.S. has naval vessels in the Gulf area and President Reagan has pledged to keep the waterway open.

U.S. officials in the Gulf are high-lipped about Mr. Murphy's Middle East tour, expected to last at least another week and to take him to Baghdad. He has already visited Israel and Egypt.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Jeddah, contacted by telephone, declined to confirm Mr. Murphy's presence in Saudi Arabia Sunday.

Other U.S. diplomats in the Gulf confirmed that he had flown

there Saturday night and was talking to senior Saudi officials Sunday. But they declined to specify whether he was in Riyadh or Jeddah, how long he was staying or where he would travel next.

The U.S. administration says it is neutral in the Gulf war but is concerned by what a State Department spokesman called the "intransigence and threatening posture" of the Tehran government.

"I believe Mr. Murphy is now in the (Gulf) region, but I cannot disclose his itinerary," said one Arab diplomat, who refused to be identified.

He added that the U.S. official might return to Egypt for further talks next Thursday, in view of a peace plan that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was reported to be preparing for ending the 43-month-old war between Iraq and Iran.

At the onset of the trip, a U.S.



Richard Murphy

State Department official in Washington denied that Mr. Murphy's mission was prompted by a fear Iraq may collapse under pressure from attacks by Iran.

Arab diplomatic sources said Mr. Murphy was to obtain first-hand information from Arab officials about the menace to the security of the region by the war. Iran has been trying to stab through Iraqi defences in the southern sector of the war front, apparently aiming at capturing the Baghdad-Basra Highway.

This would separate Basra from the rest of Iraq and bring the war closer to the doorsteps of the Gulf countries.

Khaddam, Druze leaders discuss situation in Lebanon

DAMASCUS (R)—Two leaders of Lebanon's Druze community met Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus Sunday to discuss what they called "the deteriorating situation in Lebanon."

The two, former Lebanese government ministers Marwan Hamadeh and Khalid Jumblat, told reporters they had briefed Mr.

Khaddam on the latest political and military situation in and around Beirut. They said they would have further meetings with Syrian officials.

Syria, at present the leading power broker in the Lebanese situation, recently stressed its backing for national reconciliation among Lebanese factions.

Khomeini leads Iranians to parliamentary elections

LONDON (R)—Spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini cast his vote Sunday morning as Iran held general elections for a new 270-seat Majlis (parliament), the Iranian National News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Tehran Radio said voting began at seven a.m. (0330 GMT) and would continue until five p.m. (1330 GMT). It reminded voters to bring their identity cards and pointed out that the minimum voting age was 15.

The new Majlis, for a four-year term, will replace the first one elected after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Tehran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said there were 2,700 polling stations in Tehran alone, with 30 seats at stake in the capital.

The present Majlis speaker, Hojatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of Khomeini's closest advisers, is standing again for a Tehran seat.

Diplomats in Tehran believe the Muslim clergy will again dominate parliament and that its new make-up is unlikely to have any significant bearing on such major issues as the long war with Iraq.

About 20 million eligible voters are choosing the 270-member parliament from a list of more than

1,500 government-approved candidates, including 17 female candidates from Tehran.

One-fourth of the candidates are young clerics, Iranian President Ali Khamenei has called on the voters to choose the candidates they consider most "religion-committed and expert in their field of work."

The president told a prayer gathering at Tehran University on Friday that he wanted the voters to prove to the world that their desire to vote has not been undermined by the 43-month-old war with Iraq and "superpower plot."

A dissident Iranian student group said in a statement distributed in New York that it had been calling on the Iranians to boycott the elections and that the people have been "responding positively."

The elections coincide with a major religious holiday in Iran, the birthday of Imam Ali, the 7th century founder of the Shiite branch of Islam that is the predominant sect in Iran.

Iranian ethnic and religious minorities are participating in the elections. The Majlis includes two seats for the Armenians and one seat each for the Jews, the Assyrian-Chaldeans, and the Zoroastrians.

Syria re-affirms support for Lebanon settlement

DAMASCUS (R)—Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rauf al-Kasbi has reaffirmed his country's support for Lebanon in seeking national reconciliation and said Syria would continue to work for a liberation of Israeli-occupied Arab land.

Addressing parliament, Mr. Kasbi said in a policy statement Saturday night the Damascus government's aims included a "continued shouldering of pan-Arab

responsibility towards Lebanon."

He added that his government, formed on March 11, considered Lebanon's abrogation of the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement an important victory for the Arab nation that will have positive and long-term implications.

Among other aims, he added, were "resisting all attempts to liquidate the Palestine case."

Iranian opposition leaders split over Gulf war

By Eiko Fukuda
Reuters

PARIS — A three-year alliance between leading opponents of Iranian Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has broken up in a bitter clash of views over the Gulf war.

Former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and People's Mujahedin Leader Massoud Rajavi vowed to work together to overthrow Khomeini after their joint escape to France in 1981. But last month the two men said political collaboration between them was no longer possible.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Bani-Sadr emphasised his disagreement with Mr. Rajavi's willingness to co-operate with Iraq in efforts to end the fighting between the two countries.

"The Iraqis are the aggressors and to fall in line with them would create hostile feelings towards us in Iran. It would allow Khomeini to say he alone was prepared to defend the country."

Mr. Rajavi told Reuters he could not understand Mr. Bani-Sadr's position on co-operating with the Iraqis. "How could any patriot oppose negotiations for a just peace when nearly one million Iranians have died in the war?"

Mr. Bani-Sadr said he was no longer on speaking terms with Mr. Rajavi, whose meeting with Iraqi Vice-Prime Minister Tariq Aziz in January last year was thought to have triggered the quarrel.

Speaking at his modest, heavily guarded apartment in Cachan, a Paris suburb where he has moved since the split, Mr. Bani-Sadr indicated that his own political standing would be jeopardised if he were to support Mr. Rajavi's views.

The 50-year-old former president, who originally rose to power as Khomeini's protégé, says he still has the support of the Iranian Armed Forces which he helped set up after the revolution.

"When I was commander-in-chief, the army became a truly national force. It has not forgotten what I did in this historic sense," Mr. Bani-Sadr said.

Now that the army was fighting a patriotic war against a foreign enemy, it would appreciate his achievement even further, he added.

Greece urges U.N. to denounce Turkey

MISSOLOGY, Greece (R)—Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu Sunday urged U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end what he termed background diplomacy over Cyprus, "turn words into deeds" and denounce Turkey publicly.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has been engaged in diplomatic efforts at a solution to Cyprus' 10-year-old division between ethnic Greeks

and Turks since the Turkish-Cypriots proclaimed an independent state in November.

Addressing thousands of supporters in this western Greek town at a rally commemorating the Greek war of independence against the Turks, Mr. Papandreu said:

"I want to send a political message to the U.N. Secretary General. Have the courage to talk

openly about who is ruining world efforts for the peace, unity and independence in Cyprus. I call on you to give the Greek and Cypriot people an answer."

"Enough of background moves, which have strengthened the bad faith and aggression of Turkey. Mr. Secretary General, your words must become actions."

The crowd booed when Mr. Perez de Cuellar was mentioned.

Arens: Israel favours troop disengagement

TEL AVIV (AP)—Defence Minister Moshe Arens has said that Israel would not unilaterally pull back its troops in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley but that he favours a troop disengagement with Syria in the area with a United Nations buffer zone.

"A disengagement of our forces would be good for Syria and Israel," Mr. Arens said in a pre-recorded Israeli radio interview broadcast Saturday.

"This could be done by the stationing of United Nations forces" between the two countries' troops, he added.

But Mr. Arens re-affirmed Israel's opposition to soldiers in UNIFIL, the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon, taking over Israel's role of preventing Palestinian commando activity in South Lebanon.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leading figure in the opposition Labour Party recommended that UNIFIL police the area of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon where anti-Israeli attacks are frequent, but that Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen guard a southernmost strip of Lebanon closest to the Israeli border.

Mr. Rabin spoke in a separate pre-recorded radio interview.

UNIFIL's 6,000 troops were stationed in 1978 after an Israeli military operation against commando bases. A six month long mandate is due to be renewed April 19. But Israel has also been exploring the possibility for an expanded role for U.N. troops in Lebanon.

Mr. Arens also referred to recent tensions between Israel and Syria underscored by Soviet warnings earlier this week against an Israeli attack on Damascus.

He said that Israel did not rule out the possibility that the Syrian leadership could try to "unite their ranks by going to war against a common enemy."

"I think it is clear in Damascus that Israel doesn't want war, and that Israel would not start a war... but we have some concern because we cannot say the same for the Syrians," Mr. Arens said.

Mr. Rabin, who is considered a possible candidate for defence minister in a Labour government said by "narrowing the potential friction points where a third party has an influence on things, my reference is to the existing lines in Lebanon" between Syria and Israel, he said. Mr. Rabin also said he favoured a UNIFIL buffer force in the area.

"The problem in Lebanon is you find armed units and militias who do not want U.N. forces there and are ready to fight them... they are not there with a mandate to fight but to police," he said.

U.N. chief meets with special envoy to Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Argentine diplomat Hugo Gobbi conferred with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here Saturday before leaving for Cyprus on a new and urgent mission to that divided Mediterranean island at the secretary-general's request.

The mission was announced last Tuesday after official of the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state in north Cyprus said a referendum on a new constitution in that area would be held Aug. 19 and a general election Nov. 4.

The United Nations recognises the Greek-Cypriot dominated Republic of Cyprus as the only legitimate government on the island.

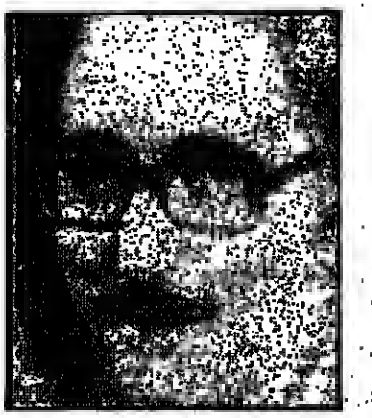
Mr. Gobbi had been conducting talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots for three years when the secession was announced. He returned to Argentine diplomatic service in December and is now Argentina's ambassador-designate to Spain.

His talk with the secretary-general in the latter's 38th-floor office Saturday lasted an hour and a half. On hand were Brian Urquhart of Britain, U.N. undersecretary-general for special political affairs, and his deputy, George Sherry of the United States, who deals with the Cyprus question here.

The specifics of Mr. Gobbi's new mission have not been spelled out. But he is expected to sound out Mr. Denktash on the possibilities of postponing, if not cancelling, the votes announced for August and November.



Massoud Rajavi



Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

Mr. Rajavi, 36, said of the split with Mr. Bani-Sadr: "We reached a point where it was better for us to go our separate ways... he was my ally, you know he is my father-in-law, and it was the Mujahedin that helped him escape to France."

Mr. Rajavi, imprisoned for several years in Iran under the former Shah, fled to France on the same plane as Bani-Sadr in July 1981.

He said the split meant the Mujahedin no longer recognised Mr. Bani-Sadr as the president of the provisional government which it would set up should they succeed in toppling Khomeini. The Mujahedin says that about 90 per cent of political prisoners in Iran today are its members or sympathisers.

Mr. Rajavi hinted that the split amounted to a loss of support for his former ally. "As far as I know, Mr. Bani-Sadr has no party. We (the Mujahedin) accepted him as a personality, not as a representative of a party or a group," he said.

Mr. Rajavi said that Mr. Bani-Sadr had signed a peace plan drawn up by the Mujahedin after the meeting with Mr. Aziz. The plan, approved by other Paris-based opposition groups, calls for an immediate ceasefire, preferably under U.N. supervision and a withdrawal of troops to borders set in 1975 treaty.

Mr. Bani-Sadr said he still supported the plan but noted that it did not make specific mention of collaboration with Iraq.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
16:00... Koran	06:00... News
16:10... Cartoons	06:15... News
16:30... Children's Programme	06:30... News
17:00... Sudan vs. Saudi Arabia	06:45... News
18:30... 1 Can Jump Puddles	07:00... News
19:00... Programme review	07:15... News
19:30... Armed Forces Programme	07:30... News
20:00... News in Arabic	07:45... News
20:30... Arabic Series	08:00... News
21:30... Local Programme	08:15... News
22:30... Local Programme	08:30... News
23:00... News in Arabic	08:45... News
23:10... Programme Continued	09:00... News
18:00... French Programme	09:15... News
19:00... News in French	09:30... News
19:30... News in Hebrew	09:45... News
20:30... The Jewel in the Crown	10:00... News
21:30... Comedy: Dr. At Large	10:15... News
22:00... News in English	10:30... News
22:15... Verdi - Eps. 2	10:45... News
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	
& purely on 95.6 KHz. SW	
07:00... Light Music	
07:30... News	
08:00... Morning Show	
08:30... News Summary	
09:00... Morning Show	
10:00... Pop Session	
11:00... News Summary	
12:00... News Summary	
13:00... Pop Session	
14:00... News Summary	
14:10... Instrumentals	
14:30... Over a Cup of Tea	
15:00... Concert Hour	
16:00... News Summary	
16:30... Old Favourites	
17:00... Classical Show Case	
17:30... Pop Session	
18:00... News Summary	
18:30... Sports Round-up	
19:00... Arhian Nights	
19:30... News Summary	
20:30... Date with a Star	
21:00... Evening Show	
21:30... News Summary	
22:00... News Summary	
23:00... News Summary	
24:00... News Headlines	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
11:00... "4th Exhibition of Arts Plasticque"	11:00... "Computer and Electronic Equipment"
11:30... "Paintings exhibition" by Youssef Baddawi at the Alina Art Gallery.	11:30... "Claude Bernard, founder of the physiology of modern medicine" starts at the French Cultural Centre.
12:00... "Mark Twain: Beneath the Laughter" starts at the American Centre at 7:00 p.m.	12:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.
13:00... "Mark Twain: Beneath the Laughter" starts at the American Centre at 7:00 p.m.	13:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.
14:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.	14:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.
15:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.	15:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.
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24:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.	24:00... "Dix Ans de cinema et de TV Publicitaires" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

MARITIME TRAFFIC

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (06) 523210, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00	.....	Cairo (MS)
07:05	.....	Aqaba (RU)
09:15	.....	Abu Dhabi (RU)
09:30	.....	Jeddah (RU)
09:45	.....	Dhahran, Kuwait (RU)
09:45	.....	Cairo (RU)
09:50	.....	Muscat, Dubai (RU)
10:00	.....	Doha, Bahrain (RU)
12:30	.....	Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
14:40	.....	Kuwait (KU)
15:10	.....	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
15:25	.....	Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
17:00	.....	Athens (RU)
18:30	.....	Bangkok (RU)
18:30	.....	Cairo (RU)
19:05	.....	Cairo (MS)
22:10	.....	Baghdad (LA)
00:45	.....	Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES

05:45	.....	Cairo (RU)
07:00	.....	Aqaba (RU)
08:30	.....	Cairo (MS)
09:30	.....	Athens (OA)
10:45	.....	Athens (RU)
11:00	.....	Amsterdam, New York (RU)
11:30	.....	Chicago, Los Angeles (RU)
12:00	.....	Paris, London (RU)
12:15	.....	Geneva, Frankfurt (RU)
12:30	.....	Istanbul, Bucharest (RU)
13:30	.....	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:30	.....	Cairo (RU)
15:40	.....	Kuwait (KU)
16:25	.....	Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)
16:40	.....	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
19:20	.....	Kuwait, Dhahran (RU)
19:40	.....	Jeddah (RU)
20:15	.....	Cairo (MS)
20:30	.....	Baghdad (RU)
20:30	.....	Cairo (RU)
20:30	.....	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)

REGULAR-LINE SHIPS DOCKING AT AQABA PORT:

—	Radomichy
—	Cape K Gate
—	Dyl Pacific
—	Gorun
—	Phoenix
—	Felise
—	Arabella
—	Farey
—	Saudi Al Qasem

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MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jls

Belgian franc	68.6/	69
Dutch guilder	124.7/	125.4
English pound	.....	314.5/	316.8
French franc	.....	45.5/	45.8
Iraqi dinar	.....	360.2/	363.3
Russian lire (for 100)	.....	22.8/	23
Japanese yen (for 100)	.....	165.3/	166.2
Kuwaiti dinar	.....	1259.1/	1262.5
Lebanese lira	.....	64.5/	65.5
Omani rial	.....	1065/	1071.2
Qatari riyal	.....	101.1/	101.8
Saudi riyal	.....	105.1/	105.5
Swedish crown	.....	47.2/	47.5
Swiss franc	.....	169.3/	170.3
Syrian lira	.....	52.4/	53.1
UAE dirham	.....	100.4/	101
U.S. sterling pound	.....	526.9/	530.1
U.S. dollar	.....	370/	372
W. German mark	.....	140.3/	141.1

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold and partly cloudy, with scattered showers and northerly moderate winds. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C

Amman	.....	12/26
Aqaba	.....	17/30
Deserts	.....	10/27
Jordan Valley	.....	16/29

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 17

Yarmouk University establishes special fund for needy students

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University has announced the establishment of a special fund for helping needy students who form nearly 15 per cent of the total number of Yarmouk University students.

The announcement was made at a meeting held here Saturday evening to discuss means of financing the education of students who are in dire need of help. The meeting was chaired by the university president Dr. Adnan Badran, who was assisted by university deans and representatives of the cross section of Irbid population.

Dr. Badran urged the wealthy

community of Irbid to extend help to the students to enable them to pursue their education. Also speaking at the meeting was Dr. Adnan Nayfeh, dean of the university's scientific research and post graduates department and several notables from Irbid governorate who supported the idea of the fund.

Donations at the meeting amounted to JD 20,000 which Dr. Badran described as a nucleus for attracting more contributions. The participants decided to form an executive committee for the fund, chaired by Dr. Nayfeh, which will follow up fund-raising operations.

Pharmacists association forms arbitration committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — An arbitration committee, formed last week, to solve problem that have emanated from the collective resignations of eight of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) board members, has met with the Minister of Health Dr. Kamel Ajlouni on Saturday.

Earlier last week, Dr. Ajlouni has frozen the eight members resignations in attempts to resolve the differences between them and the JPA president Mr. Gbaleb Sabarini. The resigned members have said to have taken their step in protest to "the con repeated bypassing of the council's decisions by Mr. Sabarini."

Well informed sources have told the Jordan Times that the arbitration committee, which includes Mayor of Amman Abdul

Raouf Al Rawabdeh, who has suggested to the minister the dissolving of council and making a new election as an appropriate solution for the JPA crisis.

The sources expects the minister to announce a decision to dissolve the JPA council upon his return from a visit to Qatar, next Saturday.

According to the JPA, if five or more council members resign, the council is automatically dissolved and a new election should be held next month.

An annual JPA meeting, in which members were expected to discuss differences between the council and Mr. Sabarini, could not take place due to failure to get the required quorum, and the meeting was postponed till April 27.

AOSM discusses technical assistance to member states

AMMAN (J.T.) — Technical assistance by the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) to member states and following up the implementation of programmes slated for 1984 are among the major topics for discussion at an AOSM executive council meeting which opened in Amman Saturday.

The meeting is chaired by Mrs. Adiba Al Mallah from Syria and attended by delegates from Jordan and several Arab countries as well as the secretary general of the Amman-based (AOSM), Dr. Zafer Al Sawwaf.

Also on the agenda is the work of AOSM's technical committees in various Arab states and co-ordination among Arab states in the unification of standards and measurements in fertilisers, food, minerals and other industries.

The AOSM which was established in 1965, helps Arab states to unify technical terms and standard specifications for products and deals with technical drawing and packaging and assists in the establishment of national bodies and collaborates with international standards activities.

Road closed due to poor visibility

AMMAN (Petra) — Al Queira-Ras Al Naqab road in southern Jordan is closed for traffic because of the accumulation of sand and very poor visibility, the Public Security Department announced here on Sunday.

It said that the Qatraneh road is also impassable due to high winds and dense dust and very poor visibility.

The department advised motorists to take extra care while driving along the Agaba-Jerash-Ramtha road because of very strong wind and dust.

It warned drivers also to take extra precaution while travelling in the Azraq-H-4 regions and advised drivers to refrain from travelling in the southern regions of the country unless it was necessary.

Justice minister leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Justice Ahmad Abdul Karim Al Tarawneh left for Baghdad Saturday night to take part in the second meeting of Arab Justice Ministers.

The ministers will discuss seven papers dealing with the unification of Arab judiciary laws and issues connected with regulations affecting companies, transport, social welfare and juvenile delinquency as well as inter-Arab co-operation in judicial affairs, among other topics. The minister is accompanied by two Jordanian judges.

Scientific camp opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — A scientific camp will open Monday at the faculty of science in the University of Jordan. On display in the week-long camp will be exhibitions of computers, reliefs and scientific drawings, chemical experiments, a charitable bazaar in addition to scientific films and a geological exhibition.

Stock exchange up 29% in March

AMMAN (R) — The volume of traded shares in the Amman Financial Market (AFM), Jordan's official stock exchange, rose by about 29 per cent to 5.8 million shares in March from 4.5 million shares in February, the AMF monthly bulletin said.

Value of the traded shares totalled JD 8.5 million (about \$23 million), compared to JD 6.07 million (\$16.4 million) in February, the bulletin said.

Short course offered on Biblical archaeology

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-week course on "Archaeology and the Bible" will start this week at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR). The course will review recent explorations and surface surveys in Palestine and Jordan, focusing on the transition from the late Bronze Age to Iron I (c. 1200 B.C.).

Through the use of slides and lectures, the course will evaluate major interpretations of Biblical traditions in light of new archaeological evidence. The course will be taught by Dr. Bob Boring, a visiting fellow at ACOR.

Classes begin April 17th at 6:30 p.m., at ACOR, and meet every Tuesday. The last session will be May 22nd. For further information, contact Laura Hess at ACOR, (814917).



Czechoslovakia's Ambassador Václav Pizinger and Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, sign a cultural agreement Sunday (Petra photo)

Jordan signs cultural agreement with Czechoslovakia

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Czechoslovakia Sunday signed an executive programme for implementing a bilateral cultural agreement for 1984-86.

Under the agreement Czechoslovakia will offer Jordan a number of scholarships for students to acquire higher education at its educational institutions, and Jordan will offer in exchange a number of scholarships for Czech students to learn Arabic at the country's universities.

Both countries will also co-operate in holding artistic and cultural events, will encourage the exchange of cultural and literary works and the holding of exhibitions to display the art and culture of both countries each other. The programme provides also for close co-operation between

the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

The programme was signed by Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Minister of Education's secretary general and Czechoslovak Ambassador to Jordan Václav Pizinger.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Education where the signing took place said that the programme opens the way for new avenues of bilateral co-operation in cultural, educational, sports activities and art affairs, and is bound to bolster ties of friendship between the two countries.

Seminar focuses on universities' role in health

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The seminar on the role of universities in achieving health for all by the year 2000 through the concept of medical care agreed upon in 1978.

The working paper pointed out that medical and nursing education in Jordan depends largely on the rehabilitation and training of medical doctors in the medical services which has to do with the patients' treatment without considering health problems facing the society as a whole.

The two researchers said that educational curriculum are part of many variables affecting and affected by the problems of health services which are part of the daily practice of students as human beings and citizens.

The research stated that the future strategy for medical curriculum in its various sectors and levels bears a big responsibility in directing and shaping up health development on the future practical level.

The researchers reviewed the basic health needs of the Jordanian society represented in health education, mother-child care, counselling clinics, disease therapy and treatment immunity, accidents and the provision of badly needed medical drugs.

Another working paper was presented by five medical doctors from the Ministry of Health in which they explained methods of providing health care services through members of the educational staff of universities.

The two-day seminar was organised by the Ministry of Health in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the universities of Jordan and Yarmouk, the ministries of Information, Education, Social Development and the National Planning Council.

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Majali opens Omani festival

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day Omani festival was opened at the University of Jordan Saturday. On display, are Omani books, popular foods and other products.

Also there will be a sports festival by Omani youths.

The festival was opened by the University President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali in a ceremony attended by university vice presidents, faculty deans, staff and students as well as Omani embassy staff.



University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali (second from left) along with Omani embassy staff, university staff and students views an Omani book exhibition at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

Ministers inspect Karak Governorate

KARAK (Petra) — Three ministers paid an inspection tour to Karak Governorate Saturday and met with heads of municipal and village councils, departments directors and citizens in the governorate.

The three ministers were Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh, Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi.

Mr. Dawoudieh talked during the meeting and reaffirmed his ministry's role, in co-operation

with donors in the governorate, in building mosques and establishing a library in every mosque.

He also added that the ministry will co-operate with the municipal and village councils to surround cemeteries with walls, to invest awqaf endowment lands and also to set up a women cultural centre in the city.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Nabulsi said that his ministry will, in co-operation with municipal and village councils, carry out the necessary services for people. He also added that the ministry will

study the new plan for Karak and will also make efforts to organise housing complexes in the city.

Mr. Nijm, also speaking at the meeting, pointed out that his ministry will prepare a study during this year for village and agricultural roads and will prepare a schedule of priorities for implementation.

Karak Governor Ahmad Al Qur'an also made a speech outlining the governorate's needs and demands. The ministers later visited the town of Mazar and conferred with its inhabitants.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi and Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm (from

right to left) discuss with leading officials and citizens of Karak during an inspection tour Saturday (Petra photo)

Baddawi portrays modern downtown Amman

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Painting some of the liveliest, brightest and certainly some of the most attractive souk scenes around at the moment has to be Youssef Baddawi, whose work is currently on show at the Alia Art Gallery. Full of well painted, animated figures and bold gay colours, these paintings are a real pleasure to see but there is more to them than that, for these paintings are not paintings of any souk, they are paintings of modern downtown Amman in all its diversity and character, and through

his work Baddawi has managed to convey exactly its familiar bustle and bustle, push and shove and festive atmosphere.

Baddawi is an able draughtsman and so although his figures are very impressionistic, they have real presence and by their gestures and postures alone he captures the essence of the scene. With a couple of blocks of well placed colour, he shows us an old beggar woman, sitting very squarely and quite comfortably on the pavement receiving a few piasters from a young passerby. In the doorway of a coffee shop, whose interior darkness is lit by the

bright shirts of the vaguely discernable customers within, we see the familiar figure of the labourer, his brown bare feet thrust into red plastic flip flops, his little wooden cap protecting the back of his head from the glare of the sun.

We see the hawkers squatting by the side of the road, the shops with their cheap goods stacked outside, the colourful canopies giving shade, and around each cameo Baddawi's lovely cheerful colours whirl, drawing the eye and the attention onto the central actors of the scene while at the same time adding life and excitement.

Baddawi often draws his figures from the back so that you have the feeling of being part of the scene. Part of it, yet also apart for you seem to be an invisible observer, catching the figures at their daily business unawares — some of Baddawi's best pieces — the lone figures of the man reading his

ART REVIEW

newspaper, and the old man sitting on the floor, the whiteness of his bhattar echoing that of his dish dash which is raised, exposing a thin bare calf, sock and shoe, and the crowd of people in a rainbow of colours moving slowly towards the mosque — all employ this idea to an excellent effect.

Among the many souk scenes, there are two very attractively

composed still lives of flowers in Baddawi's now characteristically bright palette of colours and a few abstract paintings.

These latter along with one or two of the souk scenes tend not to work very well, although for different reasons. The colours Baddawi has used in his abstracts, are, strangely enough, rather dull and lifeless and the large rather unidly signatures do not really help. With souk scenes (like the "Coffee Shop") on the other hand, the colours are rather badly mixed, their application a little wild and unfinished.

One of the great attractions of Baddawi's work is its spontaneity and freshness, but there is a difference between that and the little too hurriedly thrown together look of the latter painting. The exhibition runs until April 19.



A crowd of people moving towards Al Hussein Mosque downtown, Amman.



An old man sitting on the floor, the whiteness of his bhattar echoing that of his dish dash which is raised, exposing a thin bare calf, sock and shoe

Jabaji appointed as director

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the chairman of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) board of trustees, has appointed Dr. Daoud Jabaji to the post of director of the RCC's Building Research Centre as of the beginning of April.

Bahraini cultural week planned

AMMAN (Petra) — A Bahraini cultural week will be held here on April 24 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan. Sheikh Issa bin Mohammad Al Khalifa, president of the higher council for youth and sports in Bahrain and Dr. Mohammad Al Khuza'i, director of the department of culture and arts in Bahrain will be attending the function. The week will include a Bahraini fashion show, to be presented by the Bahraini folklore band in Amman, Zarqa and Madaba in addition to recital by Bahraini poets and children's plays at the Haya Art Centre.

DR. JAMAL SHAIR

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A replay of lost time?

THE LACK of political movement within the Palestinian leadership is a bad omen for those who expected a surge of initiatives following the departure of PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his supporters from north Lebanon last winter. The split within Fateh has been a major constraint on the entire Palestinian national movement, but other factors have also held up any substantive action. These include the policy differences between Mr. Arafat's people and the more hardline factions in the PLO such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — both of whom have signalled their political tendencies by carrying out daring commando operations within Israel. The Syrian-Arafat differences, the Israeli elections and the American presidential elections also work against any dramatic new initiative in the Middle East this year.

Yet, the pace of political action within the PLO remains frustratingly slow. There are many people who think they are seeing a replay of the events of 1982/83, when the PLO emerged with its head high from Beirut and spent the next year doing very little — at a time when its international political standing was high and Israel's was correspondingly low.

The important thing for the PLO to do now is to re-assert its own significance and legitimacy by re-affirming the one essential factor that has always been its strongest weapon — the fact that it is a genuine representative of the Palestinians, reflecting their sentiments and articulating their political goals. The spectacle of small groups of leaders of different factions bargaining the night away to come to understandings on the ground rules for future meetings of the Palestine National Council is not very heartening. While we appreciate that time is required to sort things out within the PLO, it seems to us that the best use of time by the PLO and its component groups would be to go back to its grassroots support and rejuvenate itself by the expressed will of the Palestinian people.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Mean 'retaliation'

IN THE wake of the daring resistance operations in the occupied Arab lands, the Israeli authorities have resorted to demolishing the homes of relatives of the resistance group which carried out these operations. This is the usual Israeli way of finding vent for their evil spirits by taking vengeance on the civilian population. Nevertheless, these Israeli repressive measures can never deter the Palestinians from carrying out resistance activity for liberating their homeland. As long as Israel's rulers and the Zionist leaders shun any call for reason or justice, and as long as they disregard the rights of the Palestinian people in their land, they will have to face resistance activity day and night.

Sooner or later the Israeli people will come to realise that peace in the region cannot be attained unless Palestinians regain their rights and land. Perhaps the recent resistance operations inside the occupied territories will drive home this fact to the Israelis so that they can stop their terrorist measures against the Palestinian population and stop demolishing homes of innocent civilians.

Al Dustour: Instigating more bloodshed

ISRAEL HAS demolished thousands of Arab homes in the occupied Arab lands accusing their owners of resisting occupation rule or helping resistance groups carry out their operations. By doing so, Israel is trying continuously to subdue the spirit of Arab resistance and threatening the Arabs with retaliatory measures if they think of resisting the oppression of the Israeli rulers. Israel has this time resorted to its old style of revenge by demolishing the homes of those who took part in the recent resistance operations.

The commando group was not responsible for the death of anybody in the bus operation, and they had wanted to take the bus to the Egyptian border where they would negotiate with the Israelis over the release of their mates in Israeli jails. But the treachery which the Israelis have displayed in their dealings with the commando group and the subsequent demolishing of the homes can only increase the Palestinian determination to carry out more resistance activity in the future and perhaps with more indifference towards human life and more bloodshed.

The demolishing of the homes can not stop resistance activity and if anything, this action will widen the vicious circle of revenge and counter revenge in the region.

Sawt Al Shaab: What democracy?

IN A statement by Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens he said that the Arab population in the occupied territories constitute for Israel a social rather than a national problem, and it can be considered a problem of a minority living amongst a majority of "democratic" Jewish people.

Perhaps his statement was in reply to calls within Israel stressing the fact that the government's policies will lead to a social disaster in the long run. The statement reflects the Israeli government's drive to obliterate the identity of the Arab people after confiscating their lands.

Democracy can never be built on terror practised against any people. There can be no democracy among people who believe in fanaticism and practise racial and religious discrimination against others and continue to deny the rights of other people. There can be no democracy in a land which is ruled by terrorism and oppression, and where the indigenous population cannot express their thoughts or exercise their freedom.

Arens's statement reflects his government's determination to refuse to admit that the resistance operations inside the occupied lands are the natural result of Israel's ill-practices and its repressive measures against the civilian people of Palestine.

Brazilians press heavily for direct elections

By Allan Reditt
Reuter

BRASILIA — Hundreds of thousands of protesting Brazilians have intensified pressure on the divided military-backed government to permit the electorate to choose Brazil's next president.

More than a million people staged a protest march through Rio de Janeiro this week, and other mass rallies are planned before an opposition amendment to allow direct elections comes before congress on April 25.

The government wants to uphold the rule, established by the armed forces which toppled the last civilian government in 1964, that a presidential successor must be picked by an electoral college dominated by the ruling party.

But opinion polls show that nearly 90 per cent of the electorate among Brazil's 131 million people want to choose him themselves before the term of the incumbent, President Joao Fig-

ueiredo, ends in March next year. "The amendment was approved by the people here tonight," said Ulysses Guimarães, leader of the main opposition Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), after the Rio rally surpassed all expectations.

For the amendment to make it through Congress, 100 parliamentarians of the ruling Social Democratic Party (PDS) would have to be persuaded to switch their allegiance.

Despite some defections, the PDS leadership seems confident it can defeat the amendment — if necessary by simply boycotting the debate and denying parliament the two-thirds quorum needed for a vote on a constitutional amendment.

"Brazil will not run the risk of having direct elections next year because the PDS won't be in Congress to vote," PDS President Jose Sarney said.

The opposition, with thousands of supporters expected to come to Brasilia for the debate, is bound to

protest loudly if this happens. The question being asked is how the hundreds of thousands who have demonstrated peacefully so far will react if the amendment is defeated and their hopes are dashed.

The military hierarchy, which defends the constitution and therefore the indirect voting system, has expressed concern that the direct vote campaign could undermine the government's authority and lead to a breakdown in law and order.

The military is particularly sensitive to large opposition gatherings in the capital. When hundreds of people came here to support opposition protests against a minimum wage law last year, it persuaded the president to impose emergency measures on Brasilia, allowing the armed forces direct policing duties.

The opposition campaign has emboldened underground groups such as the banned Communist Party and the 1960s Urban guerrilla group MR-8 to surface with

their flags among the crowds at recent rallies.

If such groups tried to capitalise on public disappointment should the constitutional amendment fail, opposition leaders fear they might cause a military backlash straining Mr. Figueiredo's policy of abertura (open politics).

The only waiving in government policy so far has been a promise from Mr. Figueiredo that he will send to parliament a government constitutional amendment to allow direct elections for president but only after his successor takes over.

In the ruling party itself, the splits are becoming increasingly visible with Vice President Aureliano Chaves, a civilian and one of the three PDS candidates vying for the party's nomination, describing direct vote as a legitimate popular aspiration.

Mr. Figueiredo left the PDS hopelessly split between Mr. Chaves and two other leading candidates when, unlike his four mil-

itary predecessors, he refused to name a heir and said he would leave the choice up to the party.

The other two PDS hopefuls, Interior Minister Mario Andreazza and former Sao Paulo State Governor Paulo Xaluf, have stuck to the party line so far.

Mr. Andreazza has described the campaign for direct elections as an attempt to rob the PDS of the 1982 election success in which it won a majority in the electoral college.

In the lower ranks of the party, members of parliament are faced with a thorny choice in deciding where their allegiance should go. Supporting or fighting the opposition proposal could make the difference between being voted back into office or losing their constituencies when they seek re-election in 1986.

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If the amendment is defeated, the PDS will choose its presidential candidate at its national convention in September.

The nominee will then almost certainly be elected Brazil's next president when the electoral college convenes in January and he will take over from Mr. Figueiredo on March 15 next year — with or without popular support.

'Young' Gorbachev subtly positioned next to Chernenko

By Mark Wood
Reuter

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev, at 53 the youngest member of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo, appears firmly on course to become the next Soviet leader after consolidating his position as Kremlin second man this week.

If he should achieve that goal and succeed Konstantin Chernenko as Communist Party chief, most Western analysts believe the country would be in for sharp and even radical changes which could affect the very nature of Soviet society.

Mr. Gorbachev's position as heir-apparent was effectively confirmed at a session of the Supreme Soviet this week at which Mr. Chernenko was named as state president.

First, he made the speech proposing Mr. Chernenko for the post, a privilege usually reserved for the second man.

But even more significantly, he secured a parliamentary foreign affairs post which has traditionally gone to the Kremlin's ideology chief. Diplomats said that he meant he must have assumed that role as well.

In terms of power, the guardian of ideology is second only to the leader and able to influence foreign relations, the economy and internal party affairs.

"Gorbachev was made heir-apparent in February when Chernenko took over. Now he has anchored that position and, barring any major upheavals, he can sit back and wait for power to fall into his lap," one diplomat said. A stocky, bald man with an easy and confident manner, Mr. Gorbachev's rise through the party ranks has been unusually rapid in Soviet terms.

He rocketed into the politburo in 1980 at the age of 49, charged with improving the parlous state of Soviet agriculture.

His early promotion already marked him as a man to watch, but it was not until Yuri Andropov took power in November 1982 that Mr. Gorbachev began to extend his power within the politburo.

Within months he was in overall control of economic policy and also deeply involved in party affairs, playing a major role in organising elections of officials.

During Mr. Andropov's brief reign Mr. Gorbachev emerged

very forcefully as the main proponent of a programme of reform and change aimed at shaking up the Soviet economy and replacing time-serving officials with talented, young men.

By the middle of last summer he was always in place at Mr. Andropov's right hand, a sure sign that he was the leader's own choice to succeed him.

Informed sources also say Mr. Gorbachev was the only member of the politburo to have regular contact with Mr. Andropov during the president's long period of illness.

Western analysts believe a deadlock between rival factions forced Mr. Chernenko to accept Mr. Gorbachev as his deputy and pledge to continue the changes launched by his predecessor.

They say Mr. Gorbachev should now be able to maintain his position — both Mr. Andropov and Mr. Chernenko were ideology chiefs before they took control — but that much could depend on how long the 72-year-old party leader remains in power.

"Given five or six years, Mr. Chernenko might have the time to outmanoeuvre Mr. Gorbachev and push forward his own allies,



Mikhail Gorbachev

but it will now be very difficult," one commented.

Mr. Gorbachev's character and his past performance suggest he would mould a different type of leadership from the secretive and conservative style of past years.

"He would not try to change the basics of the Communist system, but he would certainly be out to make the country much more efficient, and probably more open," one diplomat said.

When he visited Canada last year, the young politburo member showed he was not only able to think on his feet and give quick answers to tricky questions. He also indicated a receptiveness towards Western ideas and advice.

Some embassy analysts believe that if he took power he would be eager to improve trading links with the West and would seek calmer political relations so that he could concentrate on internal affairs.

"One must not forget of course, that in the long run that might be dangerous for the West. A more efficient and confident Soviet Union could be a much bigger threat," one diplomat said.

Mr. Gorbachev was born in 1931 in the southern Russian region of Stavropol, a key grain-growing area, and trained as an agricultural expert.

By the age of 35 he was party chief in Stavropol City and four years later ran the entire region, achieving sharp improvements in farm output which attracted the attention of Kremlin leaders.

He has also had success with Soviet agriculture as a whole. Instead of going for short-term gains, Mr. Gorbachev began a major

reform programme which is now seeing results in terms of higher output all over the country.

His reform ideas, which are now being applied in industry, involve giving managers more independence, making workers' pay dependent on performance and creating wider wage differentials to encourage the best workers.

He has also shown a determination to speed up technological development and close the gap with the West.

Mr. Gorbachev looks like the sort of man who would encourage more modern attitudes and might allow more open discussion — that in itself would be revolutionary," one analyst said.

He would certainly project a different image to the outside world than the country's past three elderly and ailing leaders. Diplomats who have met him say he is energetic, humorous and has a markedly outgoing personality.

Few analysts believe he will make any radical changes in party ideology, but they expect him to continue to take a strong interest in the economy and continue to press for the kind of changes which most Western experts believe are long overdue.



Controversy over Nicaragua policy

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — "It gets down to one, little, simple phrase," a key Republican senator told the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director: "I am pissed off."

That angry thrust from conservative Barry Goldwater, normally a strong Reagan supporter, was perhaps a crude benchmark of one of the biggest controversies the president has faced on foreign policy since he moved into the White House.

The subject is literally explosive — Nicaragua and the alleged U.S. mining of that country's harbours. Administration sources have been telling reporters for a week that the CIA, in a move to bar Nicaragua's leftist government, not only provided funds but actually took part in sowing mines in the Central American nation's waters.

The Senate, controlled by Mr. Reagan's own Republicans, Tuesday night passed by a stunning 84-12 vote a resolution demanding that Washington halt use of any funds for such mining.

The mines, which have damaged more than half a dozen ships from five nations, are "an act of

war", Gen. Goldwater said in a letter to CIA Director William Casey.

"I don't know how we are going to explain it," the Arizona senator, chairman of the powerful Senate Intelligence Committee, said.

Sen. Goldwater noted in the letter, dated Monday and obtained Tuesday by Reuters, that Congress had never been informed of the hostile mining operation despite a federal law which mandates the White House to do so.

The resolution, offered by Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, is non-binding and has no concrete effect on policy on Nicaragua, where the Reagan administration has been actively supporting anti-government rebels.

But Sen. Kennedy said the bipartisan vote would probably spark off an attempt to cut off aid to the rebels despite charges by the administration that Nicaragua is exporting revolution and Soviet bloc arms to leftist insurgents in Central America.

Among Republicans voting for the resolution were Senate majority leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, assistant majority leader Ted Stevens of Alaska and

Paul Laxalt of Nevada, a longtime friend of Mr. Reagan.

The administration tried all day Tuesday to respond to a week of leaked reports about U.S. actions and plans in Central America. The White House is also having trouble getting congressional approval for a military aid package to help El Salvador's government fight Left-wing guerrillas.

The White House issued an unusual three-page joint statement from Mr. Casey, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger and Mr. Reagan's assistant for national security affairs, Robert McFarlane.

"We state emphatically that we have not considered, nor have we developed plans to use U.S. military forces to invade Nicaragua or any other Central American country," the statement said.

But Sen. Kennedy said the Senate vote showed "the deep concern all Americans feel about the escalation in Central America and Nicaragua, and the real possibility of American boys dying in the jungles of Central America."

U.S. television networks quoted administration sources Tuesday night as saying the mining operation

"had ended two days ago and that a CIA ship used as a base for the operation had withdrawn."

The Kennedy resolution, attached to a major domestic taxation bill, originally had included a demand that the United States end its refusal to recognise World Court jurisdiction over Central American disputes for two years.

But Sen. Kennedy dropped that demand in order to get more concrete support on the mining issue.

Nicaragua has filed suit in the World Court in The Hague, demanding that the United States be stopped from supporting the anti-government guerrillas and taking part in the mining.

The whole controversy is sure to damage the White House's chances of getting full congressional approval for \$61 million in emergency military aid for El Salvador and another \$21 million for anti-Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua.

House of Representatives Speaker Thomas O'Neill earlier predicted the Democrat-controlled house would halve the Salvadoran funds request the would put off a House-Senate meeting on the overall Central American aid package until Congress returns from an Easter recess on April 23.

Khmer Rouge terror still plagues the Kampuchean scene

By Denis D. Gray
Associated Press

PHNOM PENH — The Khmer Rouge terror still haunts Kampuchea.

There are many families without husbands or wives or children, many orphans, and many mass graves. Even a short-term visitor may have nightmares, especially in the provinces where the Khmer Rouge guerrillas are operating and where all electricity is doused early, leaving one isolated under a mosquito net and hemmed in by shadows and night noises.

But Kampuchea appears to have been provided with an antidote to this darkness: Kampuchean officials say the country is experiencing the highest birthrate in the world, 4.2 to 4.5 per cent. Sexual liberation followed in the wake of the Khmer Rouge era and weddings are now a major growth industry.

Sunday is the day for marriages in Phnom Penh but in the countryside wedding festivities can be seen any day of the week.

Chinese cooks are doing a roaring catering business in Phnom Penh as are a mushrooming number of musical groups entertaining at wedding receptions. The price tag for a wedding can be as high as 6,000 riel (a doctor's monthly salary amounts to 400 riel, but parents normally can recoup some of the outlay from wedding gifts).

People explain that under the Khmer Rouge fear, fatigue, disease, forced marriages and communal living all inhibited normal sexual relations.

"Some people didn't make love for the entire three years of the Khmer Rouge period," says one government civil servant.

Power outages are becoming rarer, the swimming pool at the Samaki Hotel — the best in the city — has re-opened and some excellent food is now available at private restaurants. The "Liberty" boasts a 150-item menu which includes grilled lobster with ravigote sauce, poulet marenge, crabe a la russe and crepe flambee. Fresh croissants are available for breakfast.

Life in Phnom Penh is a lot easier these days for the international community, which consists largely of Socialist countries' diplomats and advisors and representatives

of United Nations and private Western aid agencies.

But by most yardsticks, Phnom Penh is still a hardship post. The lovely city became a ghost town under the Khmer Rouge, which reigned from 1975 to 1979, and revival was painful following the Vietnamese intervention five years ago. Intestinal ailments, assorted fevers and other medical problems are inevitable. Restrictions, especially for Westerners, are many.

Travel outside of Phnom Penh is difficult and in some cases impossible. The permission of a vice foreign minister is needed for aid agency personnel just to go out on a weekend picnic near the city.

Although some of the Western agencies helped save Kampuchea from starvation and disease during the post-invasion period, official suspicions remain. Westerners, for example, cannot drive vehicles, although employees of Western agencies who come from Socialist countries can.

The heat of the Phnom Penh theatre season is a multi-media spectacular called "March of the Kampuchean Nation."

More than 300 performers have been mustered along with slides, film, dance, and song to depict Kampuchea's history from ancient Angkor to the current Communist president Heng Samrin.

One scene — from the days of the U.S.-backed Lon Nol regime — takes place in a nightclub where flashy women and long-haired sons of the rich dance the night away while outside wretched street boys scrounge for food and corrupt policemen help gangsters rob a young couple.

All this, while film clips of American war planes bombing Kampuchea back into the stone age are being shown on a screen mounted above the stage.

There are some moving scenes from Kampuchea's tragic history and also some crude propaganda. The evening ends with a series of "production numbers" showing Kampuchea's economic revival.

The play is typical of Kampuchea's current culture: a mix of Marx and Angkor, an attempt to preserve a rich heritage but also insure that art serves the revolution. As the minister of culture put it in an interview: "All the arts must serve to edify the spirit of the masses."

هكذا من الامم

Iran's leaders care to keep the Persian carpet art working

By Phil Davison
Reuters

TEHRAN — Iran's leaders are trying to revive the art of carpet-weaving, which was already in decline during the last years of the Shah's rule.

Persian carpets were for centuries considered the finest in the world. But in the years before the 1979 revolution which ousted the Shah, foreign dealers had been critical of the quality.

Iranian officials say the clergy-dominated government is now giving the carpet industry higher priority. By improving quality the government hopes to maintain employment in the industry and earn hard currency as a back-up to oil exports.

Government-funded revolutionary bodies have stepped in to fill gaps left by thousands of private dealers who fled the country around the time of the revolution.

Iranian officials say 70 per cent of the carpet industry is still in private hands. But state intervention in the remaining 30 per cent has stopped rural weavers from abandoning the art and moving to urban centres for other work, they say.

State bodies provide weavers with loans, grants and raw materials such as wool and dyes, the officials said, although they gave no figures.

There are an estimated two million weavers, mostly women, in Iran and a further six million working in related fields such as plant-growing for natural dyes, wool-dyeing and designing.

Mohammad Reza Abed, chairman of the state-run Iranian Carpet Company, told Reuters the Islamic government policy is aimed at helping as many people as possible, particularly in depressed rural areas, to earn a living from carpets.

"Government policy has broken the monopoly of the wealthy private dealers," Mr. Abed said in his office above the company's warehouse.

"Before the revolution, the dealer paid the labour fees in advance and owned the carpet even before it was started. Now, the weaver owns her own carpet and can sell it to a private dealer or to us (the Iranian Carpet Company)."

"If we paid for her raw materials, this is deducted from the price we pay her. If she prefers to sell privately, she has to pay us back the cost of the materials," Mr. Abed said.

The quality of the Persian carpet, possibly at its finest during the

Safavid dynasty of the 16th and 17th centuries, steadily declined during the 20th century with the advent of chemical dyes and mass-production aimed at keeping up with increasing competition from other producers.

Now, in the segment of the industry in which the state is involved, government-appointed experts tour weaving centres and make spot checks to improve quality.

They try, for example, to keep alive the use of vegetable rather than chemical dyes. The untrained eye can scarcely detect a difference, but chemical colours run when washed and fade quickly while vegetable dyes keep their colour for centuries.

"At present, between 50 to 70 per cent of Iranian carpets are coloured with vegetable dyes. We insist on their use whenever possible since this is what makes Iranian carpets better than their competitors," Mr. Abed said.

The carpet company also runs plants where newcomers are encouraged to learn to mix dyes from older workers whose techniques have sometimes been handed down for generations.

Persian carpet exports have been falling steadily over the past decade, apart from a short-lived rise in the two years following the revolution. This was caused by wealthy Iranians who, restricted from taking out cash, removed their wealth in the form of expensive carpets.

Now, the artificially high exchange rate for the Iranian rial — black market rates are at present 600 per cent higher than the official rates — makes Persian carpets expensive for foreign buyers unless they deal on the black market and resort to smuggling.

In an effort to counteract the black market, the government now offers a 25 per cent preferential exchange rate to foreign dealers who buy carpets with officially changed cash.

Mr. Abed said that in the Iranian year just ended, the value of Iran's carpet exports was double what it was the previous year. But he did not give figures.

A look round the Iranian Carpet Company's showroom in Tehran's central "Ferdowsi" Street shows how carpet prices have multiplied several fold over the past two years.

A relatively small Kashan, new and measuring 220 by 140 centimetres, is listed at 750,000 rials (\$8,500). A new Marand, from the tabriz area of north-west Iran and measuring 306 by 194 centimetres, is priced at 1,600,000 rials (\$18,000).

The Jester's Tale



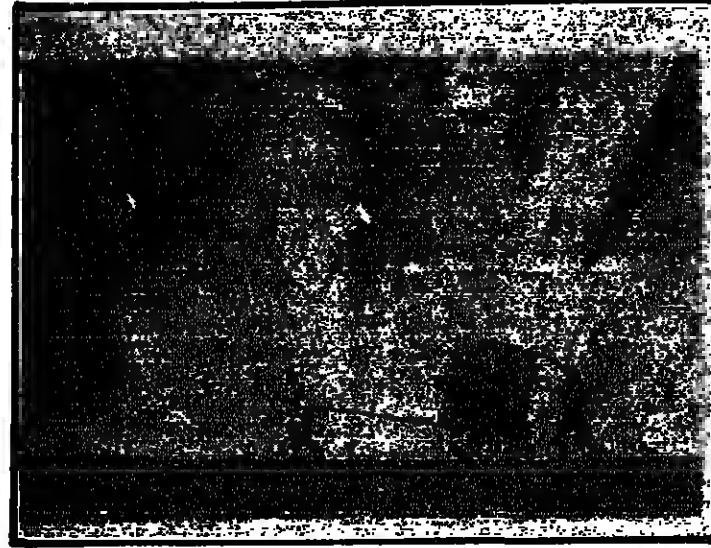
THE JORDAN Cine-Club shows at The Royal Cultural Centre this evening (Monday) Karel Zeman's "The Jester's Tale", or "Diary of a Lunatic". Produced in 1964, The Jester's Tale is the fourth full-length feature film by the Czechoslovak director, and is a winner of the Best Film Prize and the Prize for Best Direction at the International Film Festival at San Francisco.

Zeman was originally an advertising artist and then a creator of puppet films. He made his first full-length film, "A Journey into the Primeval Times", in 1954, which was awarded the Prize for the Best Children's Film at the International Film Festival at Venice and the Film Critics' Prize at the International Film Festival at Mannheim. After this he cre-

ated "An Invention for Destruction", 1958-winner of the Grand Prix at the International Film Festival at Brussels, of the Crystal Star of the French Film Academy and of the Prize of Czechoslovak Film Critics; "Baron Munchausen", 1961-which was awarded the Silver Sail at the International Film Festival at Locarno and the Grand Prix at the International Festival of Films for Youth at Cannes. Last year he made a screen version of Jules Verne's novel, "Two Years Vacation".

Opening "The Jester's Tale", Zeman introduces a war taking place in Europe and the two parties to it: the king and the emperor. The king's jester writes the story in the form of a diary, where he says at the beginning that kings and emperors fight wars so that he could write about them.

The story starts with a young peasant (Peter), who has nothing to do with war, and his meeting with the cavalier (Maties), who is a professional in war and knows all about its small and big thefts. He



convinces the young peasant to join him. The events develop and they fall prisoners of the king. The relation between the prisoners and the palace changes according to the war's outcome.

Even though Zeman has complete control over his instruments, he did fall into some stylistic flaws. In giving his characters this freedom of movement, he deprived them of their social grounds. Most of the film scenes tend to be poetic, but the overall structure is caricature. That is why it went beyond reality. What distinguishes the scenario and treatment is the combination of historical irony with romance. The director expresses certain human and philosophical attitudes not through tragedy but with a touch of comedy.

This is a unique and rich film, new in every way.

— Reema Al Issa

No man's land horse racing

By Juan-Carlos Gumucio
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — War has spared little in Lebanon, but some things — far older than the bloody conflict — remain intact, ticking deep inside the hearts of men and women. Such is the fervent Lebanese passion for horses.

While some gulp back tears as they glance at Beirut's devastated race track, planted in the middle of no man's land on the "Green Line" and still bearing the ironic name "Palace of Peace," others risk death, bankruptcy or both for a brief morning stroll with Arabian steeds.

One is Youssef Touma, who walked a haughty brown stallion in a recent morning on a deserted street near the museum crossing between east and west Beirut.

"It's in our blood," said Mr. Touma, a 48-year-old furniture salesman. "You would have to be born here to understand our love of horses."

Called "the sport of ancient sheiks," horse racing to Lebanese is what soccer is to Brazilians or Baseball to Americans.

The race track's stands were flattened by Israeli bombers during the 1982 invasion. Nearly 120 Arabian horses were reportedly killed on the turf, now carpeted with tall weeds. French troops who used to guard the area kept nostalgic onlookers away.

In addition, Abolrosse and Saad Al Amir, two pure-bred steeds that once were the nation's pride, were sold last year to a wealthy

businessman from Kuwait. War has not stopped rich Lebanese from enjoying the thrill of a good horserace. Hundreds escape to Paris each year, lured by the glittering Deauville competition, but the average Lebanese better has turned to poker, often at illegal gambling dens.

"It's pitiful, pitiful," lamented Henry Pharaoun, one of the founding fathers of the 43-year-old republic of Lebanon and currently the chairman of the paralysed Jockey Club of Beirut.

"Horses are our tradition, they mean everything to us," he said, his eyes glowing with emotion as he spoke in the statue-adorned garden of his splendid mansion in West Beirut. "I don't know when we will have them back."

According to local racing addicts, as fighting tapered off briefly last year, nearly 500 horses stood ready to compete. But clashes flared up shortly after, shattering the project and sending most owners and horses back to the countryside.

Mr. Touma and his long-time partner, Salim Hourry, instead set up a small improvised stable hide-out between bullet-pocked buildings, nurturing improbable hopes that peace may soon bring crowds, fame and fortune.

They now own four horses, which they feed, bathe and take for walks almost every day, despite the war that goes on just around the corner.

Like most of the people still living in the neighbourhood, the hor-

ses have adapted to the machine-gun crackle and grenade thuds that have become routine in this divided capital.

But some didn't. Mr. Hourry lost two horses last month. "Distress killed them," said Mr. Touma. "There was a big battle and because of the heavy fighting, we couldn't come for two days. With bombs landing everywhere the horses went wild, their nervous systems collapsed."

"We came back once the battle tapered off, but only to find two of them dead inside their stalls," he said. "The doors and the walls had marks of horseshoes all over," he said, bowing his eyes to the silver worry beads in his hands.

Mr. Touma and Mr. Hourry said they invested all their capital in the horses, which require about \$1,000 a month to maintain.

"We can't afford to stop now," said Mr. Hourry who, like his partner, comes from a family with a longstanding horse breeding tradition.

"Opening the track will bring peace to this country. People forget about guns with the horses. The day the track opens you will see Shi'ites, Sunnis, Druze embracing and kissing. Maronite Christians in the stands. Don't forget what I tell you," Mr. Hourry said.

"But for the moment, we just have to wait — and hope," he added, gently stroking the forehead of his best bet, a three-year-old brown Arabian steed whose market value he put at up to \$30,000.

The horse has no name.

Istanbul faces urban trouble

By Ragip Erten
Reuters

ISTANBUL — Bdrrettin Dalan, the new mayor of historic Istanbul, is a man in a hurry, eager to tackle the immense urban problems of a city which straddles the two continents of Asia and Europe.

With its mystic skyline of mosques and countless relics of lost empires, Istanbul may be Turkey's biggest tourist draw, but as the country's largest city its allure is giving way to an image of a chaotic, overgrown conurbation of five million inhabitants.

Today it stretches 50 kilometres from east to west across the Bosphorus Strait and encompasses a wide range of problems, including a chronic water shortage, choked transport systems, unchecked building and pollution.

"We have to work hard, we have no time to lose," Mr. Dalan told Reuters in an interview after his election last month. But he said a big advantage was that he belonged to the conservative Motherland Party of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, putting him in step with government.

Mr. Dalan, an electrical engineer-turned-textile businessman said: "I was in love with Istanbul before I ever came here." That was 28 years ago when he was 17 years old.

His top priority he says is to rid Istanbul of mud. He has promised to asphalt a staggering 1,500 kilometres of inner city roads within

the next 18 months to combat clogging of untarred roads, especially in poor areas.

Also high on his list is the water shortage, which leaves parts of Istanbul with water once a week for just two hours.

He plans to eventually speed up work on an existing water supply programme and to halve the 40 per cent loss of supplies from leaks due to faulty pipes. But the new mayor could offer no more in the short term than spreading the burden of shortages across the city.

Istanbul people also suffer huge traffic jams, long waits for crowded and infrequent buses and spend hours getting to work as bottlenecks build up every morning and evening on the snarling suspension bridge across the Bosphorus, the only way to cross the strait other than by boat.

Already hundreds of ferries shuttle commuters daily across the Bosphorus.

A multi-million dollar project to build a tunnel under the strait is being studied, but Mr. Dalan says he also has a plan for Istanbul to shift the weight of mail transportation to the sea.

He also says that with scientific time and motion studies the traffic and operation of buses could be speeded up. "Also I will start building a subway system, which frightened my predecessors for the cost is huge," he said.

The cost of all projects for improving the city would run into hundreds of millions of dollars. But Mr. Dalan refused to discuss

figures, saying he had yet to find out what funds might be available to the city.

He says a large part of a proposed \$250 million Saudi Arabian loan for infrastructure work in poor Turkish areas will come to Istanbul.

Otherwise, "We have to find rational ways to raise funds." Government plans to allocate more money for city development will not be enough in itself, he believes.

Pollution is another problem. In the last century one of the renowned beauties of Istanbul was the Golden Horn, a spit of water snaking past the Topkapi Palace of the Ottoman sultans into the European shore of the city. Now it is heavily polluted by industrial waste from its shoreline factories.

"You can start cleaning up the Golden Horn if you stop further pollution," Mr. Dalan said, adding that he would retain existing plans for treating all the city's waste in a new sewerage system before disposing of it in the sea.

Housing is yet another headache. Over two million people in Istanbul live in makeshift houses, known in Turkish as "gecekondu" (settled overnight) because of the speed in which people build them, mostly on state land.

Middle class housing has also burgeoned, with apartment blocks sprawling uncontrolled over the Bosphorus shores.

Mr. Dalan blamed lack of planning and said he was devising a housing plan.

HOTELS

HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL

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Daily at the Crown Restaurant
Amman's Finest Restaurant

THE KING GULL
ALHAYAT

HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL

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Spanish banks face pressure from government, foreign banks

MADRID (R) — Spanish banks reported a record 32.7 per cent rise in profits last year, raking in 128 billion pesetas (\$850 million), but bankers say the good times may be drawing to a close.

The banks face new restrictions set by the socialist government, which needs cash to finance a burgeoning state spending deficit, and increasing competition from foreign banks as Spain prepares to enter the European Community.

It all adds up to the demise of the late dictator Francisco Franco's protectionist policies, which turned Spanish banks into what one European banker termed "a herd of dinosaurs."

The money reserves the Bank of Spain requires banks to set aside to assure solvency have doubled since the socialists took power in December 1982, now giving the state control over half the banking system's deposits.

Bankers fear yet tougher reserve requirements are in the works.

The government says the higher requirements are designed to keep money supply growth in check and help lower inflation to eight per cent from 12 per cent last year.

The 36 foreign banks that have set up branch offices in Spain since the doors were opened in 1978 have begun to increase their share of the market through local bank takeovers.

Spain's accession to the European bloc, now forecast for 1986, will lift the floodgates to competitors with assets that in many cases top those of all the big national banks.

The Bank of Spain denies that even higher reserve requirements are in the works. But many bankers fear the government will have to dig deeper into bank deposits to finance this year's forecast 800 billion peseta (\$5.3 billion) rise in the budget deficit, which now stands at 1.2 trillion pesetas (\$8 billion).

'Concealed nationalism'

Bankers are complaining about the Bank of Spain's obligatory reserve requirements which have virtually frozen 50 per cent of the banking industry's deposits.

"This is a concealed nationalism," the chairman of one of Spain's seven big banks, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. "We are obliged to finance the state's spending deficit and in return we get growing interventionism."

Worse for the bankers, the Socialists are reining in the perks that helped the banks achieve their record profits.

Government interest rates of 21 to 22 per cent paid on some reserve requirements and fixed asset investments are targeted to drop to 15 to 16 per cent this year.

"This is going to be a year of shrinking profits," a member of one of Spain's leading banking families told Reuters. "As of this month we will start to feel the pinch."

Spain's bankers were also alarmed at the foreign challenge.

The banks, which are estimated to control between 50 and 80 per cent of Spain's economy, built up their base under Franco.

"They are slow and old-fashioned," a U.S. banker told Reuters. "We were the ones who introduced such basic products as revolving credits and floating rate facilities."

Spanish banks have responded to the threat to their hegemony with a merger process that in the last five years has slashed the number of banks from some 140 to less than 80.

But even this knee-jerk response fails to put Spain's banks on an even keel with European competitors.

According to published figures, the national banks' 14,300 billion peseta (\$95 billion) combined assets are less than those of Barclays Bank or Banque Nationale de Paris, both of which have Mad-

rid branches.

In the six years since the government authorized foreign banks to open branches in Spain, the newcomers have cornered eight per cent of the market in lending assets.

The Spanish can only fight back against foreign banks that do not have retail operations in Spain and are kept at arms length from the local market.

Non-retail foreign banks complain they are hamstrung by legislation that has virtually shut the door to local peseta funding and forces them to seek funding in the interbank market.

Foreign bankers say the restraints will have to be eased when Spain joins the European Community. But those that do not want to wait or pay steep interbank interest rates have turned to local bank takeovers as the only way into the peseta market.

Arab group wins

In the last four years Banque Nationale de Paris, Barclays Bank and Citibank have acquired Spanish banks and last month Banco Atlantico, the flagship of the expropriated Rumasa Holding's banking group, was sold to an Arab-led consortium.

Banco Arabe Espanol, backed by the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corp., were bidders — along with Banco de Vizcaya, Banco de Bilbao and Banco Exterior de Espana — for what was considered the plum of Rumasa's 19 banks.

A last-minute link-up of the state-controlled Banco Exterior de Espana with the Arab group clinched the award.

The move angered many Spanish bankers and was interpreted in some quarters as a signal from the socialist government that it would not bow to pressure from the big established Spanish banks, especially when a foreign bid was appreciably higher.

Swiss watchmakers see industry's crisis ending

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Swiss watchmakers here are warily optimistic that a slump which almost obliterated one of the country's most important industries may be ending.

Traditionally makers of high-cost quality watches, the Swiss have suffered from the relentless onslaught of cheap products coming out of the Far East.

The most dramatic broadside against the Swiss industry was launched by Hong Kong, which in 1983 exported some 300 million watches at prices averaging only \$3.50.

Against such competition, Swiss exports have slumped and the number of watch companies has fallen by a fifth in three years.

In 1983 the industry employed only 32,649 people, compared with almost 47,000 in 1980, and more than 5,000 people from the sector are still totally or partially unemployed.

The crisis point came last May, when Switzerland's two largest watch groups, SSIH and ASUAG, which account for one-third of the total industry, faced bankruptcy.

ASUAG and SSIH, makers of the Omega, Tissot, Longines, Eterna, Certina and Rado brands, have since merged after a bank rescue, which at over 650 million Swiss francs (\$300 million) was the biggest bail-out in Swiss ind-

ustrial history.

After years of losses the group aims to be back in black figures by 1986, reaping the profits of a thorough management shake-up, streamlined production and the elimination of duplication in research and marketing.

Latest figures from the watchmakers association, the Federation Horlogere (F.H.), show that Swiss exports are at last picking up.

Their value in the first two months of 1984 rose by 12 per cent from the same period last year to 480 million francs (\$220 million).

An F.H. report said that while this is still below the figure for the corresponding 1981 period, total exports in 1984 should be above last year's 3.4 billion francs (\$1.6 billion).

Switzerland sold 30.2 million watches and watch movements abroad in 1983.

"I am not very optimistic, but I'm getting more optimistic," commented F.H. President Andre Margot in Basle on the eve of the watch fair.

Mr. Daniel Kellerhals, a dir-

ector at F.H. who claims to be more confident than Mr. Margot about the future for the Swiss industry, rationalised his optimism at a recent press conference:

"There is enough capital around to restructure the industry and we have highly developed production facilities and an extremely highly qualified labour force," he said.

Mr. Margot welcomed progress made by the Swiss in developing Quartz watches and also saw potential for recovery in new cheap ranges produced here such as ASUAG-SSIH's "Swatch" and the "M-watch", produced by the private group Montaine.

Between the top and bottom price watches he detected a middle-range gap. "Filling this hole could be crucial to the future of the industry," he said.

The Swatch was the first Swiss departure into cheap electronic watches and ASUAG-SSIH's chief spokesman Mr. Robert Hussy seems delighted with the market's response.

"We don't have any sales problems. The only question we face is whether capacity can match demand," he told Reuters.

Deliberately shunning traditional Swiss elegance, the appeal of the Swatch is a garish modernity in colours which even the company's own publicity concedes is

outrageous.

The Swatch, which sells at a domestic retail price of around \$20, proved an unexpected commercial success and Swiss sales exceeded company targets threefold in 1983.

Thanks to a marketing blitz, a total of 1.1 million were made and sold last year and the company expects to more than double that in 1984.

Looking to the future, Mr. Hussy added that three innovative products due to be marketed at

the start of 1985 were "trumps in the company's hand".

They are controlled by a microprocessor which, sensitive to touch, brings the time, date or day onto a screen at the stroke of a finger.

Riding serenely above the storm of industrial change are the aristocrats of the Swiss watch industry, luxury producers housed in and around Geneva, including Patek Philippe, Vacheron Constantin, Piaget, and Audemars Piguet.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Forget the old and the frustrating and focus your attention on investigating all sorts of new interests and activities whereby you will be able to have more worldly understanding.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Let a higher-up realize your capabilities and don't burden yourself with new responsibilities. Get outside duties handled very well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't permit a partner to limit you in some worthwhile enterprise. Be more aware of the opportunities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You feel hemmed in by work, but if you concentrate on the profits to be made, you can soon be very active and enthused.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You cannot afford to take on all the expense of entertainment, so it would be wise to go dutch treat.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get busy at outside duties; you have promised to perform and get away from confining conditions at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Have a good time with a bigwig and forget that delay in communications. You have some special talent that should be perfected.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Although you may feel financially inadequate, be happy within the bosom of your family. Try to get a bigwig to visit you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You feel stalemated so go out and see another person who is cheerful and let it rub off on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you get into financial affairs from a new angle, you get better results now. A monetary expert can give you excellent advice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Keep busy at whatever is practical and see your friends some other time, since they could be out of sorts today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Do nothing that could ruin your standing within the community in which you reside. Have a delightful time with kin and friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have an influential friend who can assist you at this time, so contact early. Be more concerned with personal aims in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she is apt to be one who likes to withdraw within him or herself and should be encouraged to express the self. Otherwise little will be accomplished. Actually there is much ability and pride in this nature.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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Reagan administration hardens stance with U.S. trading partners

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration, increasingly confident it has charted the correct course for the U.S. economy, has apparently decided to take a very hard line in dealing with its trading partners and the Third World.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, talking to finance ministers and central bankers this week at the semi-annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) policy-making, interim committee, took a strident tone that startled Europeans and others.

He told a closed-door meeting of the powerful committee: "Our critics in this room have been consistently wrong."

He added that it was "counterproductive for others to abdicate responsibility for their own destinies by blaming their problems on U.S. policies."

Mr. Regan also took a tough line in talks with the Japanese last month on opening their capital markets to foreign competition.

After meeting Japanese officials in Tokyo, he told reporters

that the U.S. would no longer accept "unilateral Japanese demands" for opening its markets.

Washington's decision to fight back against its critics and trading partners using protectionist measures reflects U.S. frustration at being used as a whipping boy for the world's economic woes.

Mr. Regan strategists have also said privately that the president wants to be viewed as strong and very protective of U.S. interests during the build-up to the presidential election this year.

In private and public remarks, administration officials have put forward the following arguments:

Huge U.S. budget deficits, highly unpopular in Europe and the Third World because of their impact on interest rates, reflect the fact that the administration inherited a weakened military that

had to be strengthened at great cost.

The U.S. trade deficit, expected to hit a record \$110 billion this year, has done more to help the beleaguered economies of the Third World than virtually any other factor by allowing the poor countries to sell their goods in the huge American market.

The strength of the U.S. dollar does not reflect high interest rates or administration policy but rather a judgment by the markets that the U.S. currency is a safe haven in a turbulent world.

what happens to the rest of the world as long as the U.S. economy is in good shape at election time.

U.S. negotiations with the Japanese on the opening of their capital markets and other trade matters, while bilateral, have taken on multilateral characteristics.

Agreement was reached late last year on a \$9 billion infusion for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank affiliate that helps the very poorest countries.

The IDA funding issue, however, has recently become enmeshed in Washington's trade quarrel with Tokyo with the result that it is now uncertain when the funds will be released.

The United States had pressed for only \$9 billion funding on the grounds that an increase in its 25 per cent share would meet con-

gressional resistance.

The United States has taken the position that it would not oppose a supplementary fund for the IDA if other countries wanted one but it had no plans to contribute.

The World Bank is also attempting a complex re-alignment of countries' positions in the lending agency based on their economic size.

Such a re-alignment, if it were finally approved, would make Japan the second largest bank member.

The United States has said that such a prestigious ranking carries other responsibilities in the economic community.

The United States would like to see an increase in the use of the yen as a reserve currency since this would increase its value and make Tokyo's exports more expensive.

technology imported, international economic and technical co-operation improved," she said.

"The open (economic) policy will be implemented unswervingly."

She said China had made big strides in its foreign trade since 1979, when its liberalised economic policies were adopted.

NCNA did not spell out the exact value of trade that would be achieved if imports and exports were quadrupled as hoped, but the report said the two totalled more than \$40 billion in 1983.

The minister said this was nearly double the 1978 figure and China now ranked 18th among the

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BAYBE
FLABE
LBEZA
TAUBEY

WHAT A FAT CAT IS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

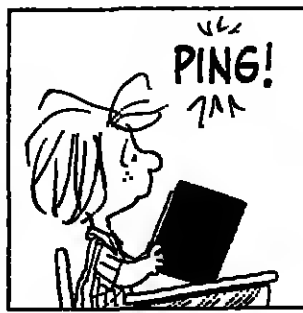
Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROWN BERET EASILY ZENITH
Answer: What the mad chaf was—STIR CRAZY

NEWS ANALYSIS

Critics among America's trading partners and in developing countries have dismissed these arguments, suggesting the White House is not concerned about

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Peter G. Snow

ACROSS

1 Vard
5 Fido's
10 Jane or
14 Yaam
15 Be affected
18 Infatwina
19 How most of us read
20 Some are in
21 Westom
22 Vary cold
23 Abhor
24 Mala escort
28 Salary
29 Limb

32 Sita of
33 Bewildar
34 Club type
35 — noire
36 Creates
37 Chats
38 Burdan
39 USSR city
40 Goes out with
41 Dem. oppon
42 Early
43 Plain
44 Tried to
45 The human race

46 John or
48 Damaga
53 How some of us read
55 Speed
56 George
57 Dill
58 Riles
59 Ronatadt
60 Tidings

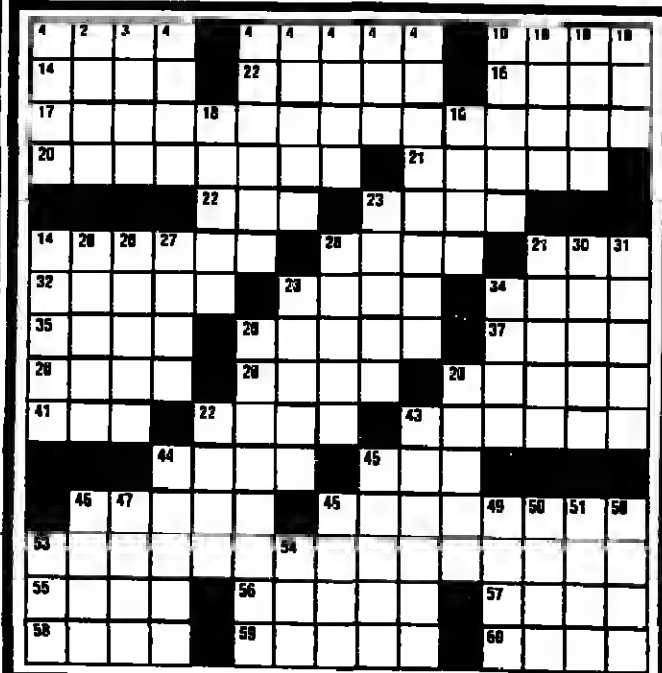
DOWN

1 Sword
2 43,560
3 Otten
4 NY Con
5 Water
6 Southpaw
7 Sups
8 Play a mla
9 Computer
10 Move
11 Ba violent
12 Symptomatic response

13 Thus far
16 Girl's name
19 Memory
23 Eye color
24 Eva or
25 Castle
26 Arise
27 Units
28 Rousa
29 Winged
30 Beat back
31 Disordered
33 Ventured
34 Small
36 Some
38 clothars
40 Giver
42 Patron
43 saint of
44 allora
45 Costumes
46 Business
47 Gog and
48 At a distance
49 Leg part
50 agent
51 First-rate
52 Burgeoned
53 News
54 Numerical
55 prelix
56 insurance
57 abbr.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ALAB OPTED STIR
MICA DRIVE PAC
PONGELEDONUTS
SNIER SEINEBODIE
HIBB TARD
MAID CLUB DIABOLIS
ABEN ODE STYDID
SOBETLEBOLDIE
CRAVAT LIND PITRE
STYDIE CUE MES
TIRA REAP
ALCAN BEA RITATA
JONGLEWIMILLER
ABOUT ALICE DORE
ROME SIEDER TAMB



Sikh extremists set fire to 31 railway stations

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh extremists set ablaze 31 railway stations across India's Punjab state Sunday in a dramatic show of strength.

Police said the dawn raids were staged by commando-style bands of up to eight extremists at each station.

The attacks climaxed a week-end of violence during which six people, including a top extremist, died, and six were injured from Saturday morning to Sunday night.

After overpowering railway station nightwatchmen and tying them up, guerrillas doused the buildings with oil and kerosene before setting them alight.

The extremists, using the same tactics for each attack, struck between midnight and 5 a.m. at small country stations the length and breadth of Punjab.

They also tried to sabotage several railway lines but police patrols spotted ripped up tracks before trains passed over them.

Police Superintendent A.P. Bhatnagar, in charge of intelligence operations for the state, told Reuters there were no casualties but many files and buildings were damaged.

Mr. Bhatnagar said police suspected the outlawed All India

Sikh Students Federation (AISF) was behind the attacks, which were the most extensive raids carried out by extremists in a 19-month-old campaign for religious and political concessions in Punjab where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live.

The AISF, which has many followers of militant preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was outlawed last month for running guerrilla training camps and other activities.

Intelligence sources said the raids were to demonstrate the state-wide strength of the extremists and frighten away thousands of farm labourers who pour into Punjab on trains from other states at this time of year for the spring wheat harvest.

Punjab's Director of Agriculture, Iqbal Singh, told Reuters the spring harvest started last Friday with about 20,000 fewer labourers than in previous years.

He estimated only 60 per cent of the 200,000 farm workers needed would come this year to Punjab, India's main wheat and rice-growing region.

In other weekend violence a top extremist wanted by police for killing a prominent Hindu politician was shot dead on Saturday in an Amritsar hotel teashop near the Sikh's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple.

Police suspected Surinder Singh Sodhi, also a follower of Mr. Bhindranwale, was behind the April 2 assassination of Harbans Lal Khanna, a Hindu politician in Amritsar. Mr. Khanna's death set off riots in Amritsar in which 12 people died.

Police said Mr. Sodhi was shot down by a man and woman drinking tea with him. Four bystanders were injured in the hail of bullets and the two attackers fled into the sanctuary of the Golden Temple.

There were conflicting reports about the motive for the killing. Some Indian newspapers said the woman cried out that Mr. Sodhi raped her and killed her husband.

However, Punjab's main English-language newspaper, the Tribune, said the woman confessed during "interrogation" by AISF leaders in the Golden Temple that another Sikh faction paid her to kill Mr. Sodhi as a warning to Mr. Bhindranwale's followers.



The crew of the space shuttle Challenger leave the craft at Edwards Air Force Base Friday. From bottom left, Commander Robert Crippen, pilot Dick Scobee, mission specialist James Van Houten, George Nelson and Terry Hart are greeted by a ground crewman (AP wirephoto).

Challenger returns in better shape than previous missions

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (Agencies) — The space shuttle Challenger returned from its third space flight in better shape than any of its 10 predecessors, a space agency official said Saturday.

But like many earlier flights, Challenger experienced some damage to its landing gear brakes, although it had no trouble stopping when it landed here Friday, Chris Widick, chief of landing operations said.

One of the first things ground workers did after Challenger landed was to remove the brakes and ship them back to the manufacturers, B.F. Goodrich in Ohio.

A company spokesman said he did not know how the brakes were being damaged.

"There is something in the landing gear system that seems to be damaging the brakes," spokesman David McClure said.

He added that company tests had not been able to duplicate the damage and both company and space agency engineers were still trying to analyse the problem.

"Compared with the 10 previous missions we think it is in better shape," Mr. Widick said after ground crews gave the shuttle an initial inspection.

The shuttle rolled to a smooth landing on the dry lake bed runway at Edwards Air Force Base early Friday after being diverted to California at the last minute because of rain at the Kennedy Space Centre landing strip at Cape Canaveral.

Challenger was towed to a tall "mate-demate device," a steel trusswork where it will be mounted atop a modified Boeing 747 to be carried back to the cape.

Mr. Widick said one heat-resistant tile on the main landing gear door was sheared off, but that caused no heat damage to the shuttle itself.

Salvadorean parties vote to cancel voting register

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A vote by three right-wing parties to eliminate the voter register for the second round of El Salvador's presidential election would allow massive fraud in the poll, officials and politicians said Saturday.

Representatives of the far-right National Republican Alliance (ARENA), the rightist National Conciliation (PCN) and the authentic Salvadorean Institutional Parties (PAISA) voted Saturday night to reform the electoral law so that people would only have to present their identity cards to vote on May 6.

Christian Democrat and Democratic Action legislators walked

out of the assembly in protest at the vote.

"The elimination of the voter registry, in addition to violating the law, puts a veil of doubt over the purity of the election," said Jose Armando Rodriguez, president of the Central Elections Council.

The run-off election pits ARENA candidate Roberto d'Aubuisson against moderate Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte.

They won most votes in the first round of the election on March 25 but neither got the 51 per cent needed for an outright victory.

3 Spanish colonels found guilty of 1982 coup plot

MADRID (R) — A court martial passed 12-year prison sentences on three army colonels Sunday for plotting a 1982 coup but recommended the terms be reduced to four years in jail and dismissal from the army.

The Defence Ministry said a fourth colonel was found not guilty of taking part in the right-wing plan to seize power on the eve of general elections which swept the Socialists into office in October 1982.

It is up to the government of Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to decide whether the prison terms will be reduced.

Col. Luis Munoz Gutierrez, Col. Jesus Crespo Cuspinera and

his Lt. Col. Brother Jose were convicted of conspiracy to rebellion and were each given the minimum sentence of 12 years and a day required by military law.

The prosecution had asked for 15 years.

Lt. Col. Juan Fernandez Hidalgo was acquitted.

The recommendation that the sentences be cut was on grounds that the established penalty was too severe for the offences, a ministry spokesman said.

The captain-general of the Madrid military region has ratified the sentences, he added.

The court martial met in secret session overnight after ending a five-day public hearing Saturday.

Visit to China will be Reagan's first to Communist country

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Ronald Reagan goes to China later this month for his first visit to a Communist country, he will meet with leaders who remain firmly committed to Marxist-Leninist doctrine despite major economic and political reforms in the nation of more than a billion people.

Mr. Reagan will visit China from April 26 to May 1. He has met with Communist leaders, including Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang earlier (this year), but never before has set foot in a Communist country.

Specialists in and out of government say that because of Mr. Reagan's reputation as an uncompromising anti-Communist, his reaction to China will be as interesting as the Chinese reaction to him.

In addition to seven hours of talks in Peking with government and Communist Party leaders, including Mr. Deng Xiaoping, Mr. Reagan will go sightseeing in the Chinese countryside. He will make two speeches and hold a news conference, all of which will be televised nationwide in China.

He also will deliver his regular Saturday radio address from China on April 28.

Mr. Reagan hopes to visit a village market at Xian and talk to students at Fudan University in Shanghai. He also will visit a township, formerly called a commune, near Shanghai.

Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford also visited China, but Mr. Reagan will be the first American president to make the trip since full diplomatic relations were established in 1979.

Mr. Reagan will sign a tax treaty and a cultural accord with Chinese leaders. There may also be an investment treaty and a nuclear co-operation agreement, although snags are holding up final approval.

He will also offer to include a Chinese astronaut on a U.S. space voyage and may suggest establishing an emergency hot-line between Peking and Washington.

A senior official, who insisted on anonymity, said Mr. Reagan is visiting China in response to recommendations of his advisers who say the trip will cement the friendly relations between the two countries.

"I don't think the president's views on China have changed," said the official, referring to past Reagan pronouncements against China's Communist government.

China experts agree that the country has changed dramatically since the death in 1976 of Mao Tse Tung, who led the successful Communist revolution that forced the U.S.-supported nationalist government to flee to Taiwan in 1949.

The collective approach to agriculture has been abandoned, and farmers are given more say about their crops, with the result that profits for many have soared.

"China is not returning to capitalism ... China is still a Communist country," said Michel Okseberg, who was a China specialist in the Carter administration.

Harry Harding, a China expert at the Brookings Institution here, said China is likely to remain Communist for the foreseeable future, but that is unlikely to return to the rigid style of Communism that prevailed under Mao.

"By any reasonable definition, any reasonable calculation, China is a Communist country and will likely remain a communist country, particularly on the political side," Mr. Harding said.

One White House official, speaking privately, agreed. But he noted, China has modified its system and experimented "in ways we want to encourage."

Mugabe assures Asians they will not be expelled

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has assured the country's 11,000-strong Asian community it need not fear mass expulsion as had happened in some African countries.

Addressing a dinner in Harare Saturday night to raise funds for Wednesday's fourth independence anniversary celebrations, Mr. Mugabe said: "We are one and belong to one another and there is no reason why we should not trust each other."

Mr. Mugabe did not identify the other African countries he referred to but former dictator Idi Amin expelled all Asians from Uganda in 1972.

The prime minister, whose speech was interrupted by thunderous applause on several occasions, said fears had been raised here that the Asian community might be expelled en masse.

"It is not that belief that prevails in this country," he said, adding that such action would amount to

racial discrimination contrary to government policy.

"I seize this moment to assure all (Asians)... they have nothing to fear from the government," Mr. Mugabe declared.

Mr. Mugabe has told Catholic bishops to stay out of his government's affairs as a clash between church and state over army conduct in Matabeleland erupted for the second successive year.

Mr. Mugabe, making his first visit for nine months to the southwestern power base of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo, attacked the seven bishops at a news conference in the Matabeleland provincial capital of Bulawayo Saturday.

He said they were trying to undermine successful army counter-insurgency efforts by charging that troops on a sweep against rebels in the area had committed atrocities against civilians, including killings, torture, rape and beatings.

He said a document allegedly cataloguing such atrocities had



Robert Mugabe

been given to his government during the bishops' annual conference here on April 2.

The report has not been made public and the head of the Catholic Church in Matabeleland, Bishop Hendry Karlen, refused to comment on its contents to Reuters.

Mr. Mugabe told reporters he wished the bishops "success in their prayers and the running of their churches, but the task of running the country belongs to the government."

Girl tells of nightmare journey with murderer

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 16-year-old girl who spent nine days with alleged mass murderer Christopher Wilder told of a nightmare journey in which he threatened to kill her, tortured her and often placed a gun in her mouth, police said Saturday night.

Torrance Police captain James Popp said Wilder enticed Tina Marie Risico, who wants to be a fashion model, into his car on April 4 by offering her \$100 to pose for photographs.

"But somehow, Wilder may have become aware of the great pain she had suffered and developed a respect for her," psychiatrist Roland Summit, who examined her, said.

The Australian-born Wilder, a wealthy Florida businessman who was sought after a series of murders and abductions of young women, died in a gun battle with

police in New Hampshire on Friday.

Before he died, Wilder put Risico on a plane in Boston so she could return to her home in Torrance on the outskirts of Los Angeles, police said.

Risico, whose long hair was cropped by Wilder apparently to conceal her identity, was forced to comply with Wilder's demands. He told her that any disobedience could be fatal, Popp told a press conference.

He said Risico was travelling with Wilder when he stabbed Dawnette Witt, also 16, in the chest and back near Rochester, New York. Wilder survived and identified Wilder as her attacker.

Risico "was told to go get that girl and bring her to my presence," and she did so because she was still within firing range," he said.

Risico was also travelling with

Wilder when he shot and killed Beth Dodge in Buffalo, New York. He said, adding: "She was not in close proximity to either of these acts and was not a participant."

Wilder repeatedly threatened Risico by placing the nozzle of a revolver in her mouth, Popp said.

Risico was also tortured with an electrical device, he said.

A sales assistant who talked to Risico when she went into her lingerie shop upon returning to Torrance and bought \$110 worth of clothes said Risico told her the device left bruises on her chest.

Mr. Summit, asked to explain how Risico survived the journey, replied: "I believe Wilder may have seen a gentleness in this young girl that did not provoke the kind of rage he felt for other women."

Filipino police told to keep peace during elections

MANILA (R) — The Philippines Commission on Elections has told the police and paramilitary constabulary to maintain peace and order during national assembly elections in May, officials said Sunday.

A spokesman said the move was prompted by a spate of pre-election violence and a constabulary report describing 44 out of the country's 75 provinces as potential trouble spots.

At least three mayors and a woman deputy mayor have been killed in the central and southern Philippines. There have also been reports of ambushes of local officials by gunmen.

The bodies of four students, missing since attending an opposition rally in Manila last month, were found last week in a shallow grave in a town 80 kilometres south of the capital.

Three more students were reported missing, possibly abducted, after taking part in a demonstration on Tuesday outside the U.S. embassy.

Opposition leaders demanded an inquiry but the government said the Communist New People's Army (NPA), which has been active in the countryside, was responsible for most of the shootings. Commission Chairman Vicente

Santiago said the police and constabulary were required to keep peace and order but they would not be allowed to interfere in the polls.

At stake in the elections are 183 seats of the 200-member single-chamber assembly which was set up in 1978, six years after President Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law and abolished the two houses of congress.

Mr. Marcos' ruling New Society Movement (KBL) won an overwhelming majority of the seats in 1978 after many politicians boycotted what they called rigged elections.

Martial law was lifted in 1981 but the president is still able to rule by decree under provisions of a constitution he introduced in 1973.

Some of Marcos' political foes are boycotting next month's elections, arguing that he rules illegally and his decree-making powers render the assembly a rubber-stamp parliament.

But the opposition United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO) said it was confident of winning against the KBL.

"We want to give democracy a last chance in the Philippines," said UNIDO President Salvador Laurel, a former senator.

Moscow seems to be seeking better ties with Pyongyang

By Granville Watts

SEOUL — North Korean Leader Kim Il-Sung celebrated his 72nd birthday Sunday amid signs that the Soviet Union wants to improve its relations with his government, according to experts in Seoul and Tokyo.

They said Moscow's apparent overtures were timed to coincide with President Reagan's visit to China later this month.

Peking previously seemed more willing than Moscow to stomach the personality cult surrounding Mr. Kim Il-Sung and his son Kim Jong-Il. Peking has publicly indicated its acceptance of the succession in due course of the younger Kim.

But Kim Chang-Soon, a leading expert on North Korean affairs, said: "I think the relations between the Soviet Union and North Korea are becoming gradually closer."

"This may help Moscow's planned counter measures against increasing links between China and the United States."

Mr. Kim, director of the Institute of North Korean Studies, a

Seoul think-tank, said North Korea was maintaining its closed society while China now had a more open-door policy.

He said that Moscow's world revolutionary line fitted in well with Pyongyang's policies.

Mr. Kim noted that the Soviet Union News Agency TASS sent a higher-level delegation to Pyongyang for Mr. Kim's birthday ceremonies than in previous years.

North Korea watchers would be looking for the level of the official Soviet government delegation to the ceremonies, he said.

Mr. Kim agreed with Japanese experts that the Pyongyang government machine was continuing its preparations for Mr. Kim's 42-year-old son to take over power, creating what would be the world's first Communist dynasty.

The semi-official Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) this week said in its annual report on North Korean developments:

"It is very likely that the seventh congress of North Korea's Workers (Communist) Party to be convened in 1986 will become an occasion for President Kim Il-

Sung to transfer power to his son Mr. Jong-Il."

JETRO said Pyongyang was urgently lacking the task of bringing about political and economic stability towards that end.

It said North Korea clearly made a policy change last January when it proposed three-way talks between the two Koreas and the United States on the situation in the Korean peninsula.

Seoul rejected the proposal, repeating its call that direct high-level talks should first be held between North and South.

The South Korean government said the Pyongyang proposal was a propaganda ploy designed to cover its embarrassment over the Rangoon bombing last October in which four South Korean cabinet ministers were killed.

Burmese authorities convicted two North Korean military officers for the bombing and withdrew all diplomatic recognition from Pyongyang.

JETRO said that as well as trying to restore international credibility, Pyongyang was also trying to break its economic stagnation which was mainly due to

lack of foreign currencies and advanced technology.

The JETRO report said China would continue backing North Korea as in the case of its support for its tripartite talks proposal.

But on the other hand, Peking appeared to be forging its Korean policy from a rational and realistic point of view, disregarding or sometimes checking North Korea's intentions.

JETRO said this was well reflected in Peking's policy of expanding sporting and other non-political links with South Korea although Peking has no diplomatic relations with Seoul.

Relations between Moscow and Pyongyang improved after the Soviet Union boycotted a conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Seoul last year and Pyongyang supported the Soviet line on the shooting down of a South Korean airliner by Soviet jets last September.

Mr. Kim said the Kremlin under new Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko was showing a more positive attitude towards North Korea than the previous Soviet leadership.

He believed this year would see more competition between Peking and Moscow to win North Korea's favour.

"So it will be very important for North Korea watchers to see whether North Korea would lean more towards the Soviet Union this year," Mr. Kim added.

While Pyongyang continues to juggle its relations with Peking and Moscow, the chances of a resumed dialogue between North and South Korea remain as distant as ever.

Talks between the two sides on the formation of a joint Korean team for the Los Angeles Olympics broke down at the border village of Panmunjom last Monday when the North Korean delegation walked out.

They complained that the South deliberately introduced non-sporting political issues such as the Rangoon bombing into the talks and said they would only return if Seoul changed "its wrong stand."

The South called for a resumption of the talks at Panmunjom on April 18 but said they would not drop the Rangoon issue.

COLUMN

Sniper killed in hail of gunfire

NORFOLK, Virginia (R) — A sniper who shot dead a policeman and a woman was killed early Saturday in a hail of gunfire after a 12-hour standoff with the authorities. Nathaniel Robinson, 39, a computer technician, kept a special police unit at bay from inside his house until he was finally flushed out by teargas canisters. Robinson emerged firing two guns at policemen and died in the return fire, officials said. "We did everything possible to get him to come out of the house," Police Chief Charles Grant said. "We pleaded with him, we begged. We didn't want it to end this way."

Chinese invent new way to stop drunk drivers

PEKING (R) — China has begun exporting an electronic device which can sniff alcohol on a motorist's breath and stop him starting the engine, a Peking magazine reported. The monthly China Reconstructs said three factories are already producing the sensor for clients in Japan, the Philippines and Hong Kong as well as China. The inventor, People's Liberation Army Technician Ren Zhicheng, hit on the idea at his birthday party when his wife proposed a toast, the magazine said. The pungent smell of the fiery Maotai liquor which she had been drinking took his breath away.

Hospitals seek ways to revive coma victims

LONDON (R) — Hospitals in Britain are testing a special medical kit, made up of smells and tastes, in their battle to rouse accident victims from comas. Officials said 60 kits sent to hospitals for tests include bottles of brain-stimulating smells such as new-mown grass and cow manure and tastes of horseradish and orange. Experts have also added to the kits sensations like a nail brush on the skin and taperecordings of everyday sounds — all of which doctors believe can help the brain of an injured person react again to familiar patterns.

Special socks cure athlete's foot

PEKING (R) — Doctors at a Shanghai dermatology institute say they have developed washable socks which can cure athlete's foot, a contagious condition caused by a fungus. The Shanghai daily Wen Hui Bao said the socks had proved 87 per cent effective on 129 test patients and was selling fast since going into production. The socks contain four different types of anti-toxin, which the doctors say are similar in composition to foreign products used to treat the skin ailment. The socks can be washed over 100 times without losing its effectiveness, the daily added.

64 per cent of Indians are illiterate

NEW DELHI (AP) — More than six out of every 10 Indians cannot read or write, the government said. Ram Dulair, minister of state for home affairs, told parliament that according to the 1981 census, 64 per cent of the population is illiterate. The census did not include the remote north eastern state of Assam because of violence in the region. The minister said the eastern state of Rajasthan, which borders Pakistan, had the highest rate of illiteracy, with 76 per cent of adults unable to read. India, the world's second most populous country next to China, has a population of about 700 million.

Youths arrange death of father

CHERBOURG, France (AP) — Three children, two of them teen-agers, arranged for a friend to kill their father while he slept because he annoyed them, police said. The motive for the shooting in the Norman village of Tainville 20 kilometres south of here remained "uncertain," but detectives said it was clear the victim, Roger Plepotevin, 50, had annoyed his children. Plepotevin, who worked at a milk-processing plant, had been deserted by his wife in January. Police said he was unable to exercise any authority over his children, who had total control of the house and had been in trouble for several petty thefts.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠62 ♠987 ♠AK8 ♠A8643
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠98742 ♠10653 ♠J98 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q98 ♠AK872 ♠853 ♠K6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
- Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ10762 ♠AK85 ♠AJ10
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K107 ♠8 ♠AK72 ♠AQJ62
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
4 ♠ Pass Pass Dble
Pass 4 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K9 ♠AQ ♠AKJ93 ♠10762
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?